



# Jallikattu Investigation

15 January–3 February 2019

*PETA* INDIA



## Contents

<b>I. Details of the Investigations.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II. Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>III. Key Observations and Findings.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A. Rampant Cruelty to Bulls.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1. Avaniapuram Jallikattu .....	4
2. Palamedu Jallikattu .....	10
3. Alanganallur Jallikattu.....	16
4. Keelapanaiyur Jallikattu and Vadamadu .....	21
5. Viralimalai Jallikattu.....	25
6. Ulagampatti Jallikattu.....	31
7. Alagumalai Jallikattu .....	45
<b>B. Data on Bull and Human Casualties .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>C. Illegal Jallikattu Events .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>D. Illegal Parallel Bull-Taming .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>IV. Legal Violations .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>V. Other Information.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>A. Madras High Court’s Opinion - Asks Whether Jallikattu Can Be Restricted to ‘Thai’ Month.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>B. News Reports Regarding Cruelty to Animals and Casualties .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>VI. Discussion and Conclusion.....</b>	<b>72</b>

## **I. Details of the Investigations**

**Dates:** 15 January–3 February 2019

### **Jallikattu and Vadamadu Events Investigated**

- Avaniapuram, Madurai District, 15 January
- Palamedu, Madurai District, 16 January
- Alanganallur, Madurai District, 17 January
- Keelapanaiyur, Pudukkottai District, 19 January
- Viralimalai, Pudukkottai District, 20 January
- Ulagampatti, Dindigul District, 22 January
- Alagumalai, Tiruppur District, 3 February

### **Objectives of the Investigations**

- To record the treatment of bulls
- To check for violations of animal-protection laws and rules
- To record any reported human and animal injuries and casualties

## II. Executive Summary

The comprehensive investigations conducted by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India at seven jallikattu events organised in different parts of Tamil Nadu from 15 January to 3 February 2019 identified and recorded numerous instances of cruelty to bulls in the form of both mental and physical torture.

This latest PETA India investigation and investigations of jallikattu events conducted in previous years reconfirm that jallikattu takes advantage of bulls' natural nervousness as prey animals by deliberately placing them in a terrifying situation in which they're forced to run away from those they rightly perceive as a threat. The evidence – in the form of photographs and video footage – demonstrates that bulls are poked and jabbed with wooden sticks and metal sickles, hit and jumped on, and tackled. Their tails are bitten and twisted, and they are treated in other cruel ways. Exhausted and dehydrated animals were forced to participate in jallikattu after standing in queues for up to 16 hours without overhead shelter or sufficient water and feed. They were yanked roughly by nose ropes, causing their nostrils to bleed, and many collapsed from exhaustion and/or dehydration before and after the events. Such abuse at jallikattu events leads to severe injuries, including broken bones, and even death.

Bull injuries and deaths are not always reported by the media. Yet between January and April 2019, at least five bulls and one cow reportedly died during jallikattu events. In 2018, at least six bulls died, and in 2017, at least three bulls died. Over the years, there has been a steady increase in the reporting of bull deaths, confirming that no amount of regulation can prevent cruelty to and injuries of bulls.

Human injuries and deaths are better reported in the media. So far in 2019, at least eight humans have lost their lives during jallikattu events and 597 have sustained injuries. The total number of fatalities resulting from jallikattu events in the last three years, from 2017 to April 2019, was at least 42 humans, per news reports, with 3,007 injured. As jallikattu continues, a staggering number of human deaths and injuries continue to occur.

Inspections conducted by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 and investigations by PETA India in 2017, 2018, and 2019 have also demonstrated that jallikattu is inherently cruel, causes bulls unnecessary suffering, and is apparently in direct violation of the provisions of Sections 3 and 11 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960. The findings of the AWBI were upheld by the Honourable Supreme Court of India in its landmark judgment of May 2014.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017, went into effect on 31 January 2017. This Tamil Nadu state law amends the PCA Act, 1960, to allow jallikattu. The state government also devised corresponding rules, namely, the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules, 2017, regarding jallikattu events, but PETA India's findings consistently show the rules do not prevent human or bull injuries and deaths.

PETA India's 2019 investigations once again prove that jallikattu must be banned.

### III. Key Observations and Findings

#### A. Rampant Cruelty to Bulls

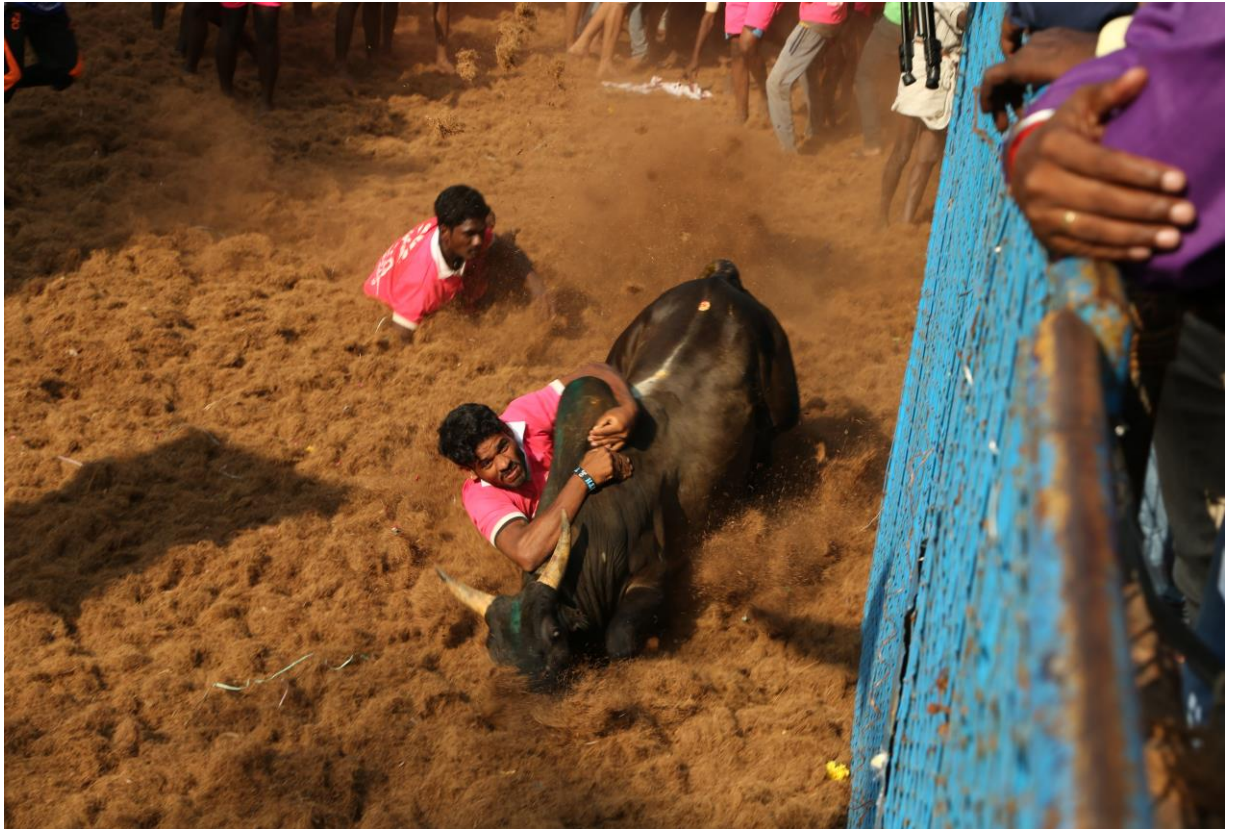
Photographic evidence of observations and findings from seven jallikattu events between 15 January and 3 February 2019 are listed below.

The photographs and video evidence are included on a CD as **Annexure 1** for your reference.

#### 1. Avaniapuram Jallikattu



**Photo 1:** A tamer topples a bull to the ground as he attempts to tame the animal.



**Photo 2:** A bull falls to the ground as a tamer pounces on the fleeing animal.



**Photo 3:** A tamer hangs from the neck of a bull, violating the event's rules. He was not disqualified for doing so.



**Photo 4:** Bulls fall to the ground under the weight of a tamer. This was a common sight in the Avaniapuram event.



**Photo 5:** An owner holds a sickle in the vaadi vaasal as the bull is forced to run out into the arena.



**Photo 6:** A bull stretches his tongue out in agony as men roughly yank the nose rope, dragging the bull towards the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 7:** A bull's nostrils bleed as the nose ropes are roughly yanked in the queue to the vaadi vaasal.





**Photo 8:** A bull's nostrils bleed as the nose ropes are roughly yanked in the queue to the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 9:** A bull's nostrils bleed as the nose ropes are roughly yanked in the queue to the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 10:** Onlookers hit fleeing bulls with their bare hands before the animals reach the collection yard.



**Photo 11:** An injured tamer is carried on a stretcher from the arena.



**Photo 12:** This queue offered no overhead shelter from the sweltering heat.

## 2. Palamedu Jallikattu



**Photo 13:** A reluctant, blindfolded bull is dragged in the queue to the vaadi vaasal.



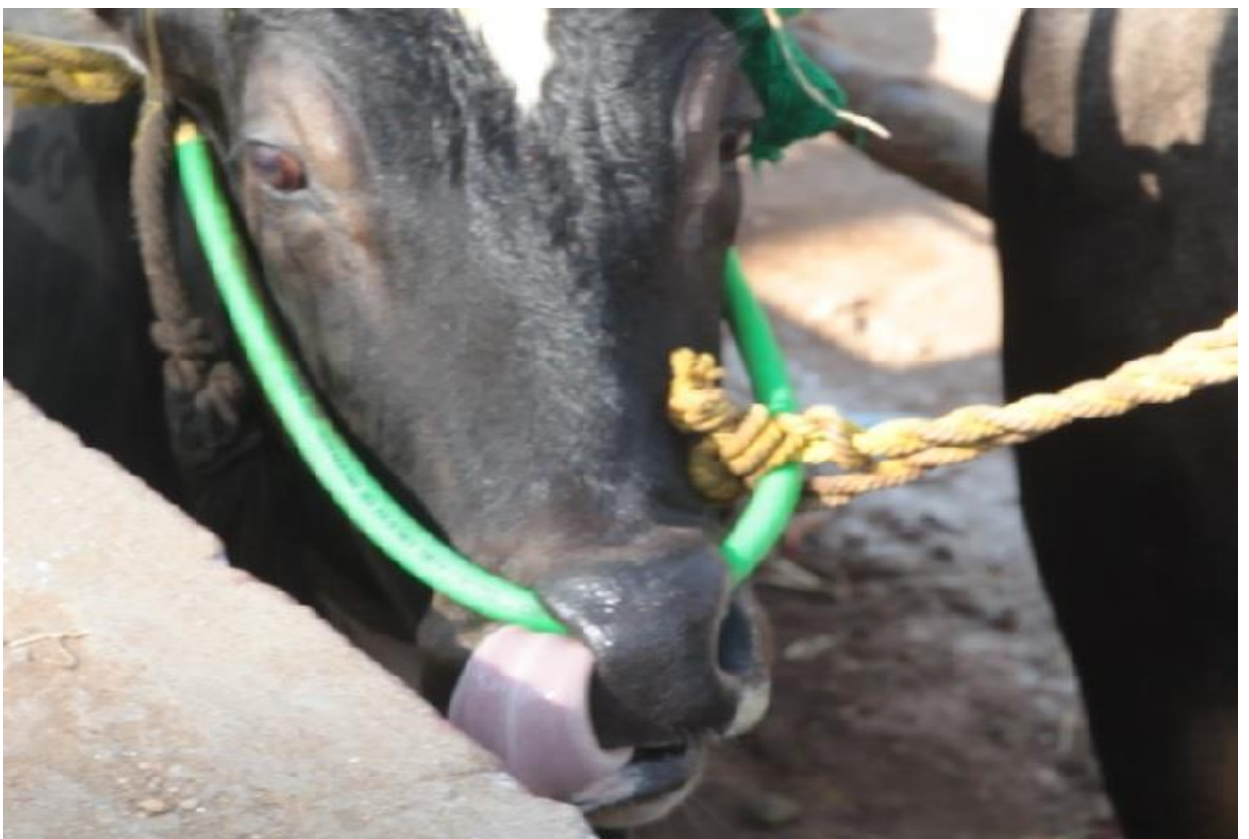
**Photo 14:** A man bites the tail of a bull to force the exhausted animal to get back up.



**Photo 15:** A tamer holds onto the horns of a bull while taming the animal



**Photo 16:** Several tamers attempt to tame a bull together, violating the event's rules.



**Photo 17:** A thick pipe is inserted into the nostrils of a bull, causing pain.



**Photo 18:** A bull's nose ropes are pulled in order to drag the reluctant animal into the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 19:** A tamer holds onto a bull well past a distance of 15 metres, violating the event's rules.



**Photo 20:** A man holds a bull by inserting his fingers into the nostrils as the animal was agitated in the queue.



**Photo 21:** There was no overhead shelter in the queue leading to the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 22:** An injured man is taken into an ambulance.



**Photo 23:** An animal ambulance attends to a bull who fell in the dry riverbed near the collection yard.





**Photo 24:** A police officer engages in a lathi charge at spectators who gathered to tame the bulls running out of the collection yard.

### 3. Alanganallur Jallikattu



**Photo 25:** Many tamers pounce on a lone bull to tame him.



**Photo 26:** Five tamers attempt to tame one bull.



**Photo 27:** Many tamers attempt to tame a bull as some hold the horns, which is not permitted.



**Photo 28:** A bull's nostrils bleed profusely because of the rough handling of the nose rope.



**Photo 29:** A bull falls to the ground and pierces a tamer with his horns in the arena.



**Photo 30:** A bull lies on the ground while being cruelly restrained in the collection yard.



**Photo 31:** An exhausted bull who has fallen to the ground is restrained inside the collection yard.



**Photo 32:** There was no overhead shelter in the collection yard in Alanganallur.



**Photo 33:** Five confused bulls run in to the arena because the exit was blocked.

#### 4. Keelapanaiyur Jallikattu and Vadamadu



**Photo 34:** A bull's tail is pulled inside the vaadi vaasal in Keelapanaiyur.



**Photo 35:** A bull's tail is twisted inside the vaadi vaasal in Keelapanaiyur.



**Photo 36:** A calf is forced to run out of the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 37:** Calves who are clearly younger than 5 months old are forced to participate. People block their exit from the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 38:** A doctor stitches up a tamer's wound that was inflicted by a bull at the venue.



**Photo 39:** Tamers attempt to tame a tethered bull in vadamadu (an event in which a lone, tethered bull is tamed in an open ground).





**Photo 40:** A tamer pulls a bull's tail but is not disqualified.



**Photo 41:** Tamers without jerseys attempt to tame a tethered bull, violating the event's rules.



**Photo 42:** A child leads a bull into the open area, which puts his safety and that of the public at risk.

## 5. Viralimalai Jallikattu



**Photo 43:** A spectator indulges in illegal parallel jallikattu in the collection yard.



**Photo 44:** Spectators hit fleeing bulls in the collection yard.



**Photo 45:** A bull leaps over a man in the collection yard.



**Photo 46:** Onlookers stare at a fleeing bull as they block the entry to the collection yard.



**Photo 47:** Hordes of onlookers crowd inside the collection yard, where only bull owners should be allowed.



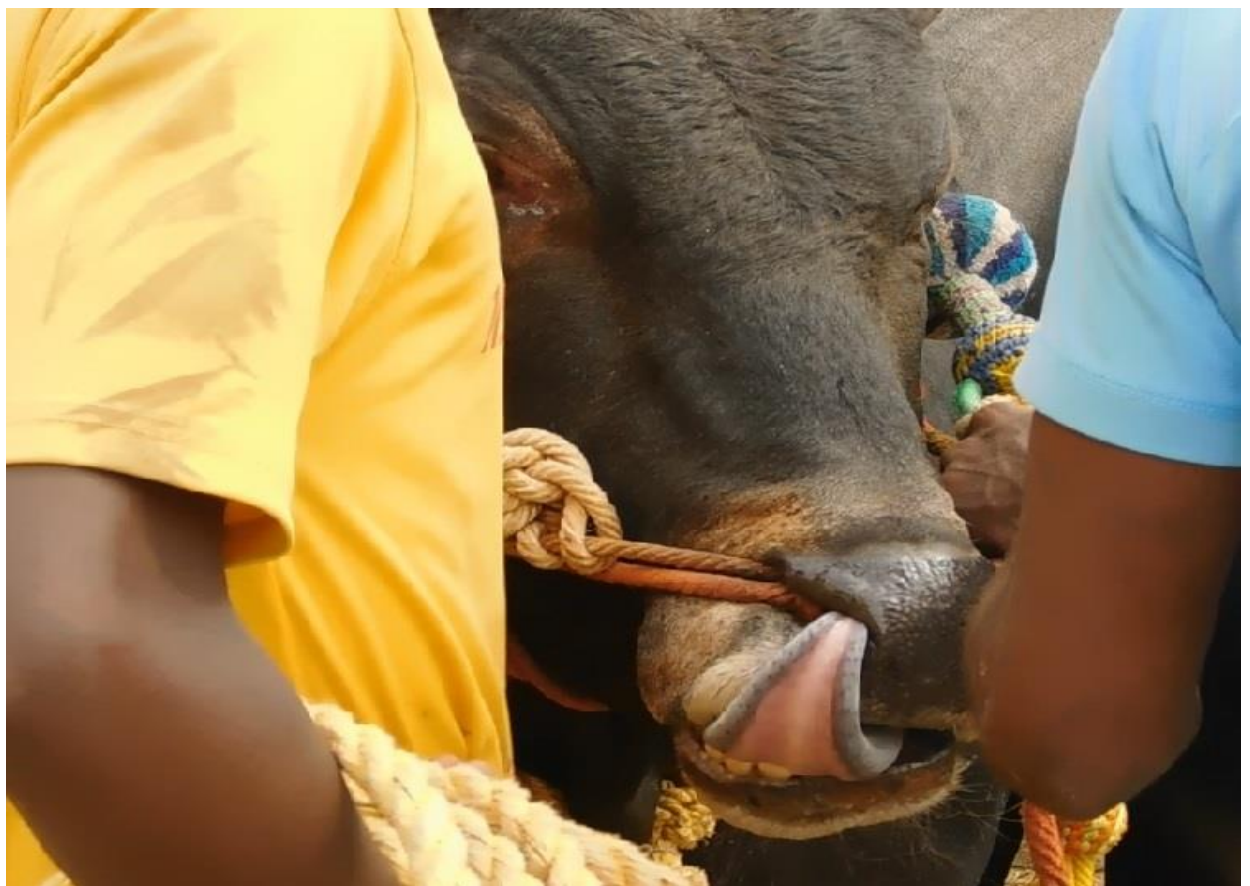
**Photo 48:** A man yanks the tail of an exhausted bull in order to force the animal to get up in the collection yard.



**Photo 49:** An exhausted bull was forced to get up and was pushed with bare hands and a wooden stick, against his will.



**Photo 50:** Bulls flee onto roads and run among shops near the venue, endangering lives.



**Photo 51:** A bull licks his nostril, through which two nose ropes have been inserted, which can be very painful.



**Photo 52:** Two bulls attack each other inside the bull run area.



**Photo 53:** A bull owner quenches his animal's thirst using a water bottle, because there was no drinking water in the queue.



**Photo 54:** Bulls are squeezed into a queue starting on the night prior to the jallikattu event. They stand in this appalling way for up to 16 hours.

## 6. Ulagampatti Jallikattu

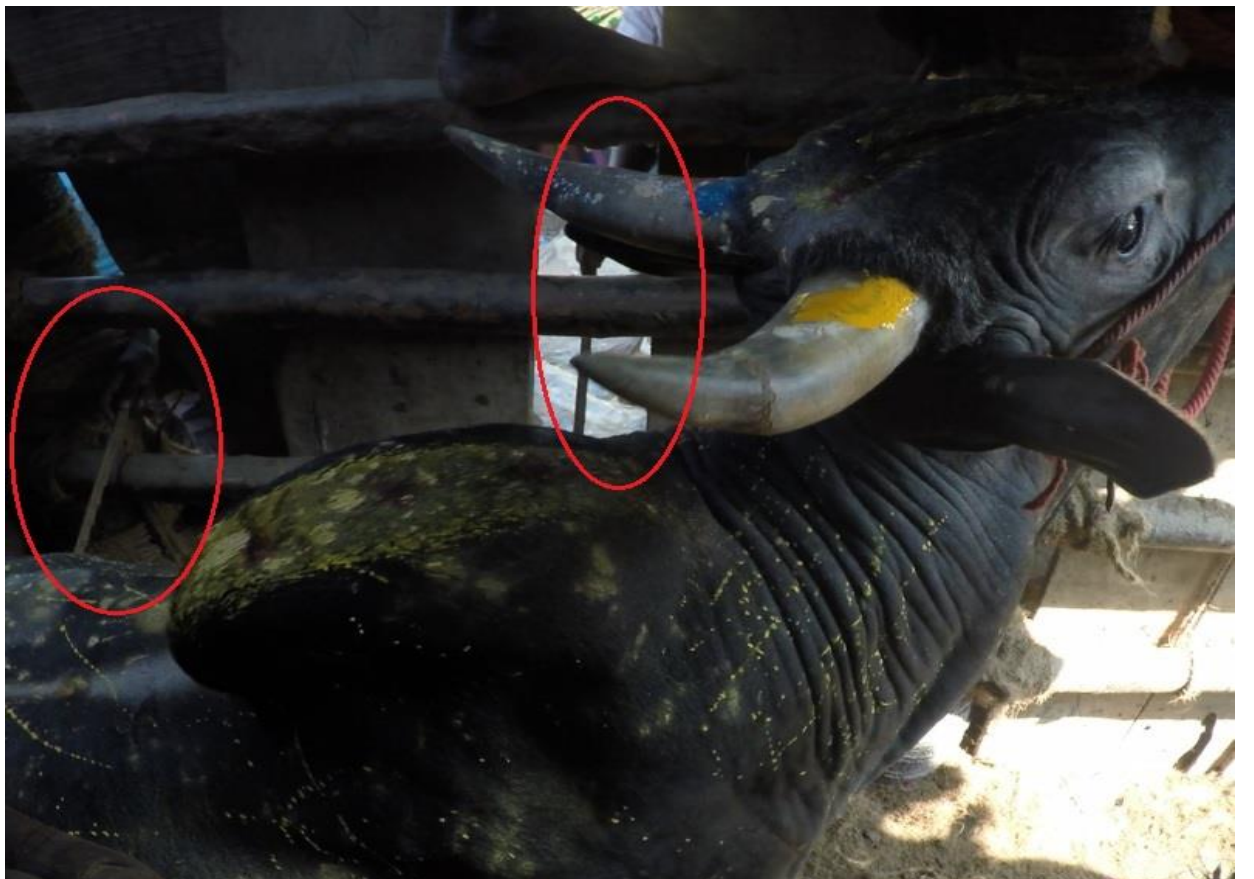


**Photo 55:** A man bites the tail of a bull in the vaadi vaasal.





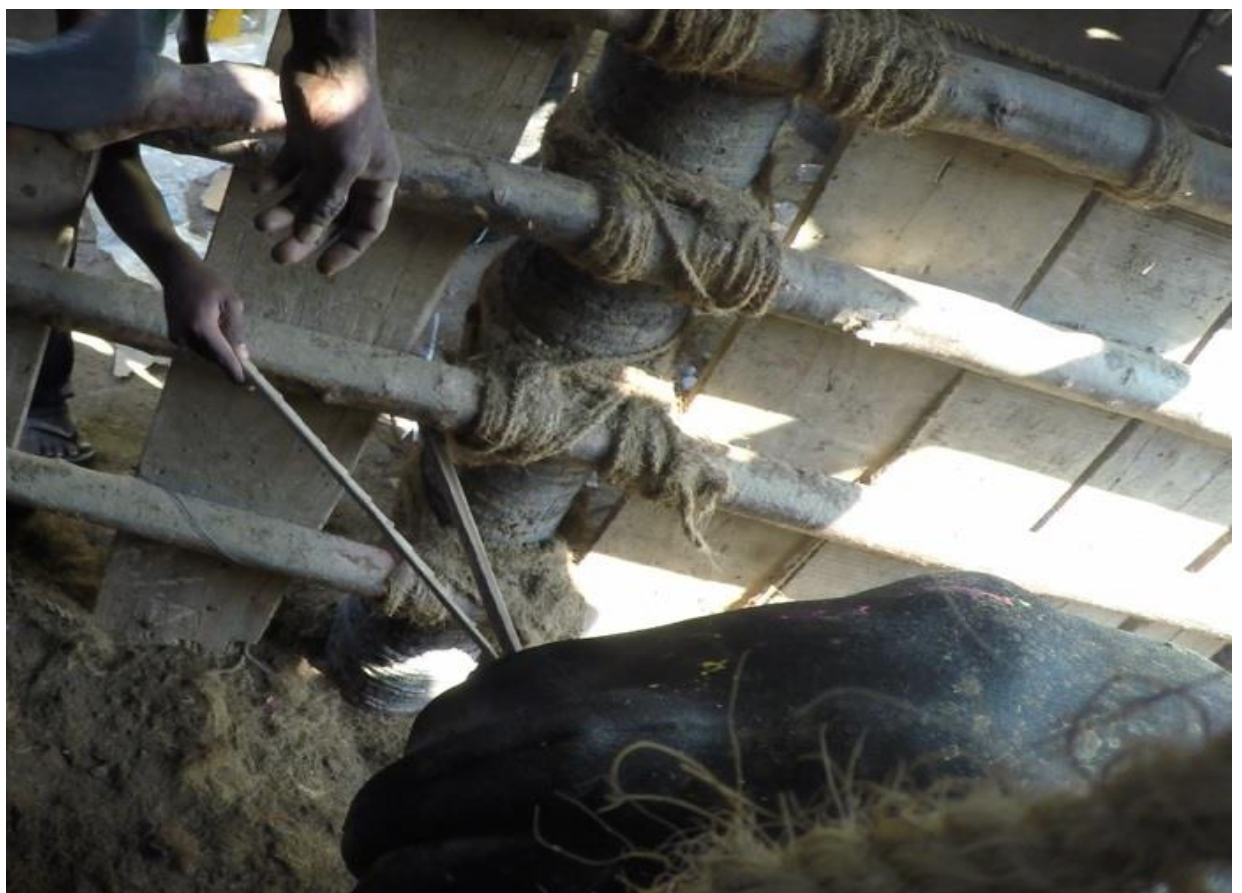
**Photo 56:** A man bites the tail of a bull in the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 57:** A bull is poked with two wooden sticks in the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 58:** A bull is poked with a wooden stick and whacked with a bare hand in the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 59:** A bull is poked with two wooden sticks inside the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 60:** A bull's tail is yanked in order to force the animal to run out of the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 61:** A bull's tail is yanked in order to force the animal to run out of the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 62:** A bull is poked and his tail is yanked inside the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 63:** A bull is poked with a wooden stick inside the vaadi vaasal by one of the event organisers.



**Photo 64:** A scared bull is poked repeatedly, and his tail is pulled inside the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 65:** A bull's tail is roughly yanked inside the vaadi vaasal in order to force him to run out.



**Photo 66:** A bull owner twists a bull's tail in order to force the animal to flee from the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 67:** A scared bull is hit with a stick, his tail is pulled, and he is dragged by a nose rope towards the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 68:** A bull owner twists the tail of a bull in order to force the animal into the queue to the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 69:** A tamer yanks a bull's tail – violating the event's rules – in full view of the public in the arena.



**Photo 70:** A tamer yanks a bull's tail in full view of the public in the arena.



**Photo 71:** A bull falls to the ground under the weight of two tamers.





**Photo 72:** A bull topples over as he is tamed.



**Photo 73:** A bull falls on tamers in the arena.



**Photo 74:** Scared bulls run back into the vaadi vaasal in order to escape from tamers.



**Photo 75:** Seven people try to tame a lone bull inside the arena.



**Photo 76:** The arena didn't have sufficient coir pith ground covering to ensure the safety of the bulls and tamers.



**Photo 77:** A tamer tames a bull well beyond 15 metres.



**Photo 78:** Two bulls attack each other in the arena.



**Photo 79:** Boisterous onlookers hit fleeing bulls with their bare hands in the collection yard.



**Photo 80:** The entrance of the collection yard is blocked by onlookers and bull catchers.



**Photo 81:** There was no overhead shelter in the queue.



**Photo 82:** Barricades were less than 20 feet high in the arena, and there was no double-barricading.

## 7. Alagumalai Jallikattu



**Photo 83:** A bull with bloody injuries outside the queue.



**Photo 84:** A bull with bloody injuries outside the queue.



**Photo 85:** Event organisers and a bull owner poke a reluctant animal with sickle-tipped sticks.



**Photo 86:** A scared bull who turned away from the vaadi vaasal is prodded and poked with sticks.



**Photo 87:** A bull is poked with a sickle-tipped stick.





**Photo 88:** A man pokes a bull with a metal sickle.



**Photo 89:** A man bites the tail of an exhausted bull in order to force the animal to get back up in the collection yard.



**Photo 90:** A bull's nostril bleeds because of rough handling of nose ropes.



**Photo 91:** A bull bleeds profusely from his nostrils because of rough handling of the nose ropes.



**Photo 92:** A bull bleeds profusely from his nostrils because of rough handling of the nose ropes.



**Photo 93:** Another bull bleeds from his nostrils.



**Photo 94:** Many bulls fled and returned to the arena, as the entrance to the collection yard was blocked by crowds.



**Photo 95:** An injured bull with a bloody wound at the base of the tail was cleared to participate in the event by the veterinary team.



**Photo 96:** A reluctant bull sits on the ground in the queue leading to the vaadi vaasal.



**Photo 97:** Two bulls attack each other and lock horns.



**Photo 98:** A tamer tames a bull well beyond a distance of 15 metres.



**Photo 99:** There was no drinking water, feed, or overhead shelter in the collection yard.



**Photo 100:** There was no drinking water, feed, or overhead shelter in the collection yard.

## **B. Data on Bull and Human Casualties**

**Disclaimer: The data presented in this report regarding human and bull injuries and deaths is partial because of the following:**

- The information has been gathered by PETA India via news reports found through an internet search – therefore, all reports are unlikely to have been found.
- Not all deaths and injuries are reported in the news. This is particularly the case for human injuries and bull injuries and deaths.
- Humans and bulls may die after an event is over, in a hospital or otherwise, and these deaths may not be reported by the media.
- Occurrences in remote villages may not have been reported by the media sources found by PETA India.

The list of casualties of jallikattu has been climbing steadily over the years. Unlike in previous years, in 2019, a cow, along with bulls and humans, died in jallikattu. At an illegal *erudhattam* (a form of jallikattu) event held in Uddanapalli, a cow reportedly died in the arena, in addition to a bull who died. A 13 February 2019 article in *The Hindu*, “Cow and Bull Killed in Erudhattam”, stated, “A cow that was let into the arena tripped on its own leash and fell. It died as its head twisted after hitting the ground. In the other incident, two bulls that

were made to run in opposite directions, rammed each other. While one bull died on the spot, the other suffered critical injuries.”

In 2019, eight humans, five bulls, and one cow have reportedly died in jallikattu and 597 humans have reportedly been injured, including tamers, spectators, bull owners and handlers, police personnel, and villagers, along with countless bulls.

At the jallikattu event organised by Tamil Nadu State Health Minister C Vijaya Baskar at Viralimalai in 2019, two spectators were killed. A 22 January 2019 opinion piece in *The Hindu*, “Death by Design: On Jallikattu”, said, “After Sunday’s tragedy, jallikattu events of the future might have barricades at the collection points too. But danger is in the very nature of the blood sport that is jallikattu. Unpredictability is intrinsic to the sport. ... After every loss of human life the regulations might get tighter, but the danger to the life and limb of participants, spectators, and bull-owners will remain.”

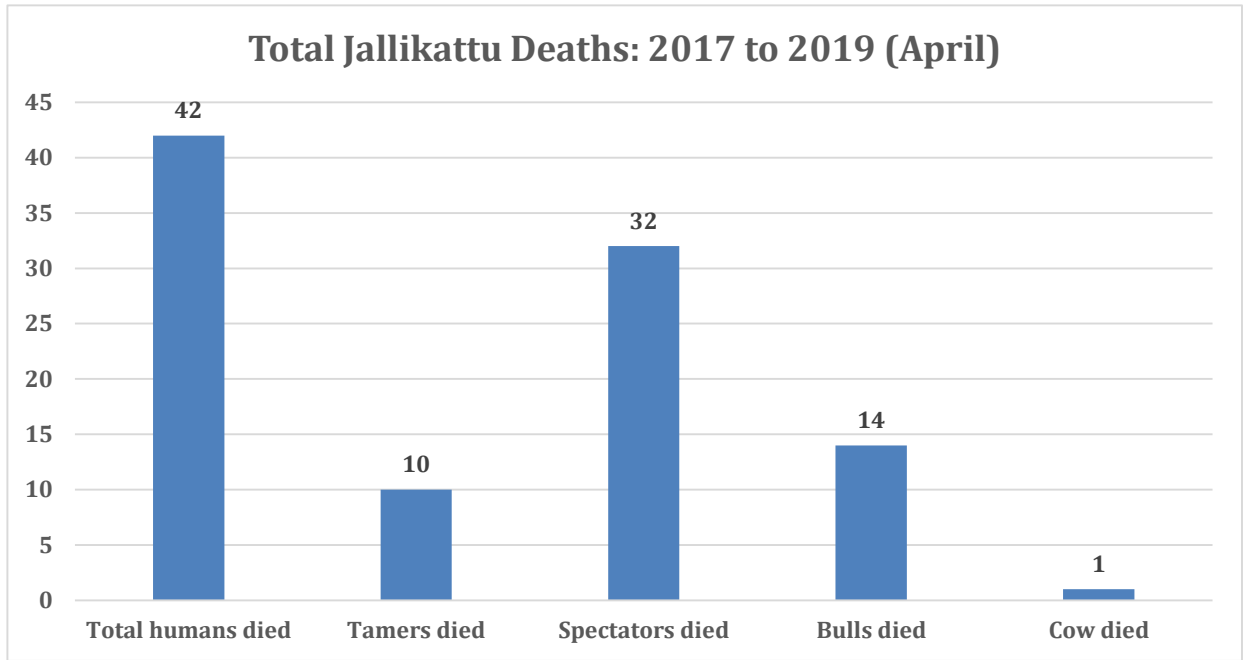
In 2018, 14 humans and six bulls reportedly died in jallikattu and 364 humans were reportedly injured, including tamers, spectators, bull owners and handlers, police personnel, and villagers. Injuries to bulls were routine at the events.

In 2017, 20 humans and three bulls reportedly died in jallikattu and 2,046 humans were reportedly injured, including tamers, spectators, bull owners and handlers, police personnel, and villagers. Injuries to bulls were routine at the events.

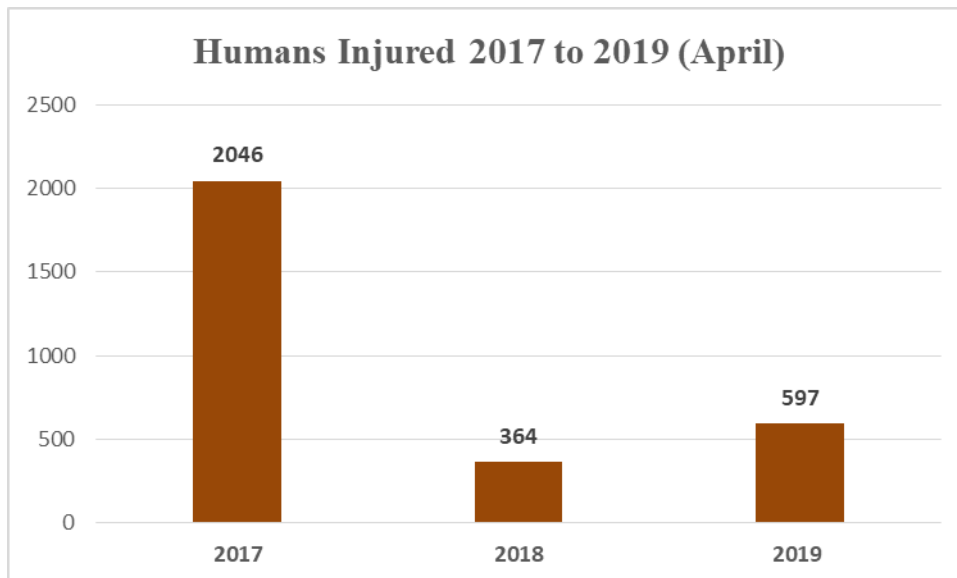
**Important:** The following table shows that more spectators (32) have been killed than tamers (10) in the past three years, proving that no regulations at jallikattu events would have prevented spectators’ injuries and deaths and that the state made a false promise and created a misleading impression about the safety of the event.

Year	Humans injured	Total humans died	Tamers died	Spectators died	Bulls died	Cow died
2019 (until April)	597	8	1	7	5	1
Total: 2017 to 2019 (April)	3007	42	10	32	14	1

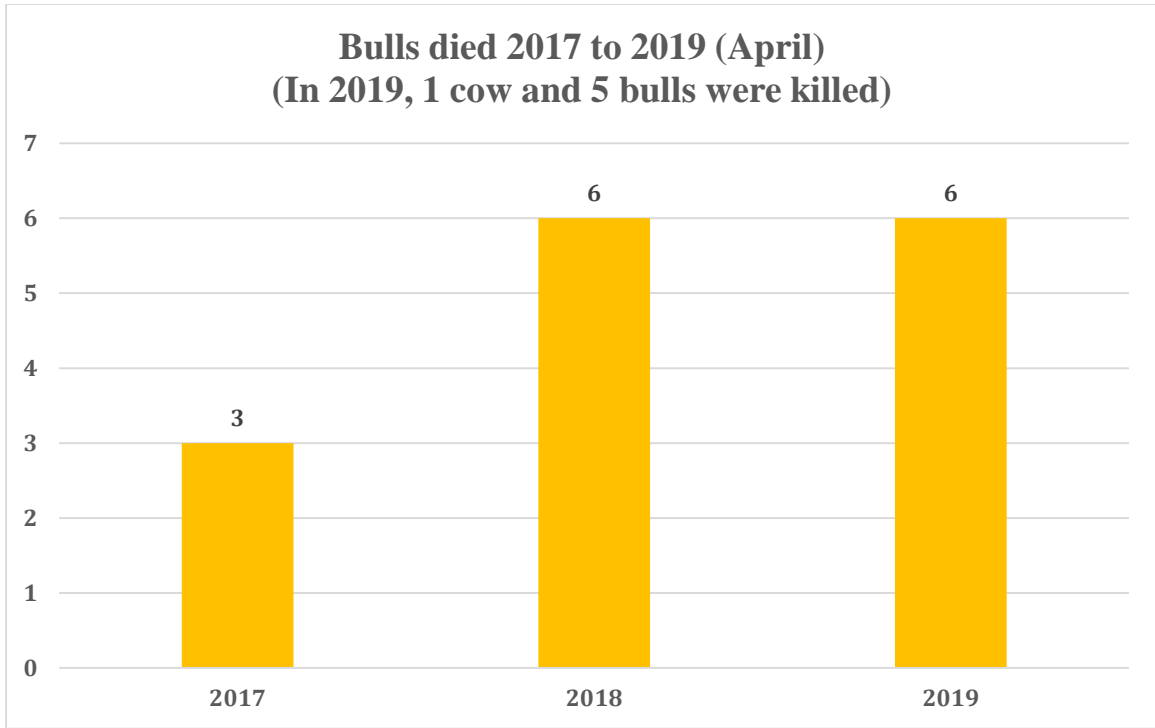




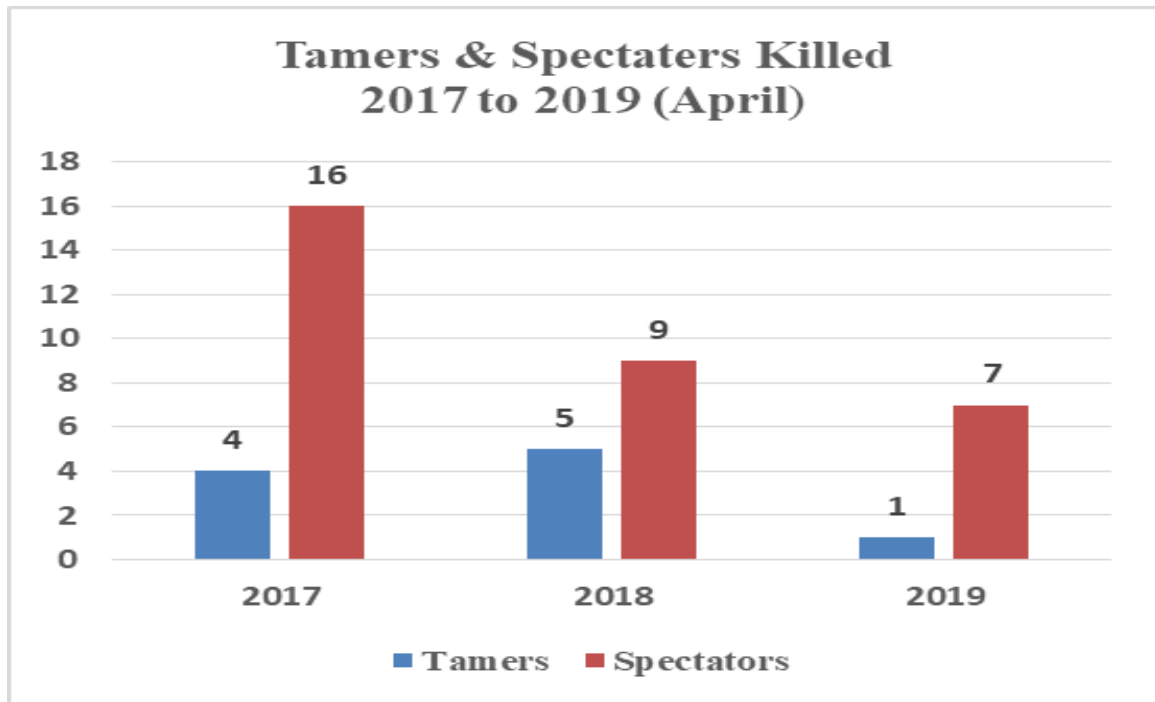
**Graph 1**



**Graph 2**



**Graph 3**



**Graph 4**

### **C. Illegal Jallikattu Events**

Unauthorised and illegal jallikattu events have been held across various districts in 2019. More illegal jallikattu events (events held without the permission from district authorities and police department) have been held in Krishnagiri and Vellore districts so far. Most of the events go unreported, as the district administration, police departments, and media aren't aware that they're being held. Holding these events without safety measures in place poses a serious threat to the public.

The number of bulls, tamers, and onlookers killed is higher at events that are held without the permission of and help from district authorities and police personnel. In Krishnagiri, a spectator was reportedly gored to death after a bull barged into the spectator gallery at an illegal jallikattu event held at Ulagam village near Shoolagiri on 6 March 2019. A 6 March 2019 *Times of India* article, "Bull Barges Into Jallikattu Spectator Gallery, Gores Man to Death", noted, "According to the Shoolagiri police, the bull taming sport was conducted in the village without obtaining permission from the police department and the district administration."

At an illegal erudhattam event in Madhagondapalli in Krishnagiri district, there was a huge clash between the police and the public, as the former were trying to stop the unauthorised event. The public pelted the police with stones, damaged their jeeps and fire service van, and injured eight police and fire safety personnel. A 21 February 2019 article in *The Hindu*, "Eight Policemen Injured in Rioting During Illegal Erudhattam", stated, "The incident is the fourth such case of illegal erudhattam organised in the district over the past fortnight. Last week, two bulls and a cow were killed in an erudhattam held without permission here in Rayakottai, leading to a stringent monitoring by the administration."

A 26 April 2019 DTNEXT article, "Illegal Jallikattu at Sivaganga, 2 Killed", noted, "Two persons, who were believed to be spectators were gored to death by bulls during an illegal jallikattu organised at Kandaramanikam village coming under Kallal block in Sivaganga district . . . . The event at Kandaramanikam was a violation as the organiser failed to get official permission. Thirukoshtiyur police have registered a case against the organiser, the Collector said."

### **D. Illegal Parallel Bull-Taming**

Onlookers and spectators were filmed pouncing on and taming bulls who were fleeing in bull-run areas and both inside and outside the collection yards at the seven jallikattu events investigated. Parallel jallikattu occurred inside and outside the collection yards, where uncontrolled spectators jumped onto running bulls and held onto their humps. This illegal practice was particularly rampant in five of the events – Avaniapuram, Palamedu, Keelapanaiyur, Viralimalai, and Ulagampatti. Parallel jallikattu causes additional physical injuries and mental trauma to the scared bulls.

#### IV. Legal Violations

The PCA (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017; the Tamil Nadu PCA (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules, 2017; and the AWBI jallikattu guidelines, 2018, were all blatantly flouted in the seven jallikattu events in four districts of Tamil Nadu that PETA India investigated in 2019. The findings of the investigations and evidence of abuse documented in photographs and video footage prove that no amount of regulation can prevent cruelty to bulls during jallikattu events.

Tamil Nadu Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules, 2017	Violations at the Seven Events Investigated
<b>3. PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCT OF JALLIKATTU</b>	
(7) The organizers shall conduct Jallikattu in a[n] open ground with the following facilities.	At Avaniapuram, Alanganallur, and Ulagampanatti, the events were conducted in the middle of towns or villages on narrow public roads.
(a) The bulls shall be provided rest for a minimum of 20 minutes before they are brought into the arena.	This was not implemented at any of the events.
(b) In the holding area, each bull shall be provided adequate space to exhibit the normal behaviour. Each bull shall be provided a minimum space of 60 square feet. Adequate feed and water shall be provided to the bulls and they shall be allowed to perform their normal physiological functions.	In the events at Viralimalai, Avaniapuram, and Alanganallur, the bulls were kept in queues by squeezing them in sideways. At large events like Avaniapuram, Palamedu, Alanganallur, and Viralimalai, bulls were forced to stand beginning the evening before the event and made to wait this way up to 16 hours.

<p>(d) The bulls shall be thoroughly observed for any physical injuries to the body parts like mutilated ears, fractured tail, etc. by Veterinarians of the Animal Husbandry Department. If any injury is found, they shall not be permitted to participate in the event and shall be sent back.</p>	<p>At all the events, bulls with visible injuries or mutilations, such as cut ears, were found in the queue for the vaadi vaasal – beyond the medical examination area, where they should have been rejected. One bull in Alagumalai had a bloody wound near the hip and was in the queue before he was forced to enter the vaadi vaasal. He was made to enter the arena from the vaadi vaasal.</p>
<p>(e) The bull holding area shall be provided with adequate roofing (shamiana /thatched roof) so as to protect the bulls from rain or sunlight.</p>	<p>At all the events, the roofing was inadequate and didn't provide the bulls with protection from rain and sunlight.</p>
<p>(f) The holding area shall be maintained neat, clean and hygienic. All wastes like dung and organic wastes shall be cleared then and there and disinfectants shall be used liberally to ensure complete hygiene.</p>	<p>At all the events, bulls were filmed standing in accumulated dung and urine in the holding areas. Dung and other waste was not cleared in the holding areas at any of the events.</p>
<p><b>4. EXAMINATION OF BULLS</b></p>	
<p>(1) The bulls shall be compulsorily subjected to veterinary examination by the qualified veterinarians of Animal Husbandry Department.</p>	<p>At the jallikattu organised in Keelapanaiyur, none of the bulls who were forced to run through the vaadi vaasal were</p>

	<p>subjected to veterinary examinations. (Bulls forced to participate in the vadamadu at Keelapanaiyur were medically examined.)</p>
<p>(2) The participating bulls shall be examined for general health by clinical examination. Bulls showing symptoms of fatigue, dehydration, restlessness, etc. shall be identified and not permitted to participate further in the event.</p>	<p>Medical examination of bulls, forced to run through the vaadi vaasal at Keelapanaiyur, were not done (Medical examination of bulls forced to participate in the Keelapanaiyur vadamadu were done).</p> <p>Bulls showing symptoms of fatigue, dehydration, restlessness, etc., were forced to participate in all seven events.</p> <p>Reluctant, scared, and exhausted bulls were poked and hit with wooden sticks and metal spears, whacked with bare hands, and blindfolded, and their tails were twisted, yanked, and bitten while they were in the waiting area in order to force them to enter the vaadi vaasal.</p>

<b>5. ARENA</b>	
<p>(1) Arena shall be at least a 50 square metre area. The bulls have to be embraced by the participants within this 50 square metre area.</p>	<p>Rules about embracing bulls were violated at all the events, as the tamers tamed bulls well beyond the 50–square metre area.</p>
<p>(2) The participants shall not be permitted to stand in front of the bulls as they enter the arena. They shall also not be permitted to block the exit way for the bulls. The participants shall be permitted only to embrace the bulls by their hump and run along with the bull for 15 metres or for 30 seconds or sustain three jumps of the bull. The participants shall not hold on to the tail, horns using their hands or restrict the movement of the bulls by holding on to the bulls’ legs. The participants violating these guidelines shall be liable to be debarred from participating further in the event. The 15 metre area shall be liberally strewn with coir pith.</p>	<p>All rules were violated in all seven events except the coir pith rule. Coir pith was not strewn in Keelapanaiyur jallikattu, and the quantity was lacking at Ulagampatti.</p> <p>At Alanganallur, two tamers were filmed holding onto a bull for 16 and 17 jumps respectively, and another held a bull for longer than 30 seconds. It was common to see tamers pulling bulls’ tails inside the arena in Ulagampatti.</p> <p>In their desire and greed for prizes like silver coins, furniture,</p>

motorbikes etc., tamers held on to the animals for more than prescribed distance and duration, i.e. holding bulls' humps for more than 15 metres, longer than 30 seconds and forcing the bulls to jump more than three times, much to the animals' discomfort.

Many tamers in all seven jallikattu events held onto bulls' horns. The majority of tamers who ended up "taming" a bull after doing so weren't disqualified and were awarded prizes. If every tamer who held onto bulls' horns had been disqualified, only a handful would have remained in the arena.

The organisers/ jallikattu committee took a lenient approach and gave tamers who broke the rule prizes instead of issuing warnings, denying them prizes, or ending their participation. Regulating the spectacle is impossible when the



	organisers themselves hand out prizes to participants who flout the rules instead of punishing them.
<b>6. BULL RUN AREA</b>	
(1) The area after the bull embrace area up to the Bull collection yard is the Bull Run area. A strong double barricade should separate the galleries from the arena. The spectator gallery shall be constructed from at least 15 metres beyond the point where the bulls are released so as to minimise the noise from the spectators at the time of the bull release.	At the Ulagampatti and Keelapanaiyur vadamadu, there was only a single barricade in the arena instead of double-barricading.
(2) After the run of 15 metres, when the bulls enter the bull run area, the participants are not to be allowed to touch the bulls. The Bull Run area should cover a minimum of 100 metres length to facilitate the bulls to the exit without any anxiety into the collection yard. The entire activity starting from entry of the bulls into the arena up to the bull collection yard shall be completed in 60 to 120 seconds.	Participants were filmed taming the bulls well beyond 15 metres in bull runs at the events at Palamedu, Viralimalai, Ulagampatti, and Alagumalai.
<b>7. BULL COLLECTION YARD</b>	
(1) The bull collection yard shall be made out of bounds for others. Only the bull owners or their authorised personnel shall be allowed to enter the bull collection yard. A minimum of 60 square feet area shall be made available for each bull and at a time. The bulls after completing the run will enter the collection yard, which shall also be a double barricaded area. The owner or a person authorised by the owner who is familiar with the bull shall receive the bull at the collection yard and peg it. Water and feed shall be provided to the bull. After ensuring adequate rest for the bull	Except at Alagumalai, all the events allowed spectators to enter the collection yard. There were no double barricades for the yards at any of the six venues.  A rest time of 20 minutes and feed

<p>(minimum of 20 minutes), the bulls shall be taken back home by the owners.</p>	<p>were not provided at any event.</p> <p>A handful of water bowls was found only in the collection yard at Alanganallur.</p>
<p>(2) The bull collection yard shall be provided with roofing (shamiana/thatched roof) so as to protect the bulls from rain or sunlight. Closed circuit cameras shall be fixed at vantage points in the bull collection area and all the activities shall be recorded. A Veterinary team shall be posted in the collection yard so as to provide immediate attention to the bulls that have completed the event. A posse of police personnel shall also be present in the collection area.</p>	<p>Shamiana/thatched roof was not found in the collection yard at any of the events.</p> <p>Veterinarians weren't seen in the collection yards at Keelapanaiyur jallikattu and Ulagampatti.</p>
<p><b>9. MISCELLANEOUS</b></p>	
<p>(1) The participants shall be put to thorough check up by a medical team constituted by the Collector just before they enter into the arena. The Collector shall ensure that every participant wears an exclusive dress for the purpose of identification with necessary identification card. The Collector shall ensure deployment of additional medical facilities like extra ambulance vehicle, serving doctors, veterinarians etc., for ensuring the safety of the participants as well as the bulls. The Collector shall strictly ensure that the bulls are not physically abused just before it is released into the arena. Further, the nose rope/ face rope of the bull should be snapped only by the owner or his representative in the presence of the authorised officials.</p>	<p>At Keelapanaiyur, none of the tamers who tamed bulls in jallikattu donned jerseys, and none of them was enrolled or registered before the event. Some who attempted to tame the tethered bull in Keelapanaiyur vadamadu also didn't sport jerseys.</p> <p>At Keelapanaiyur, both jallikattu and vadamadu were held on the same day.</p> <p>Bulls were physically abused at all the</p>

	<p>events. The reluctant, scared, and exhausted animals were hit with wooden sticks and metal spears and whacked with bare hands, their tails and nose ropes were yanked, and their tails were bitten while they were in the waiting area in order to force them to enter the vaadi vaasal.</p> <p>Bulls' nostrils were bleeding in multiple events.</p>
<p><b>The AWBI's 2018 Guidelines on Conduct of Jallikattu Event (issued on 5 January 2018 in letter No 17-1/2017-18/PCA/CC/JK)</b></p>	
<p>vi. (iv) Double-barricading of the arena or the way through which the bulls pass through in order to avoid injuries to the spectators and bystanders who can be permitted to remain within the barricades</p>	<p>At the Ulagampatti and Keelapanaiyur vadamadu, there was only a single barricade in the arena instead of double-barricading.</p> <p>There was no barricading separating spectators from bulls let out of vaadi vaasal in Keelapanaiyur jallikattu.</p>
<p>x. (viii) The participants in the event should also enroll their names in advance to the revenue authorities. They should also be put to thorough check up by the Physicians available in the medical team and only after their certification</p>	<p>At Keelapanaiyur, the names of participants who pounced on bulls who were forced to run through the vaadi</p>

<p>about the suitability of the individuals; they should be allowed to participate in the event.</p>	<p>vaasal were not enrolled with the revenue authorities nor subjected to medical check-ups. They participated without certification. (The rules were followed by those who participated in the vadamadu event held the same day.)</p>
<p>xiii. (xi) Exclusive dress for the participation [can] also be thought of both for the sake of identification and to provide a charm to the heroic game.</p>	<p>At the Keelapanaiyur jallikattu, participants who pounced on bulls who were forced to run through the vaadi vaasal did not wear exclusive dress. The unregistered participants wore personal, casual wear as they jumped on fleeing bulls.</p> <p>Some participants in the vadamadu event held at Keelapanaiyur also did not wear an exclusive dress but donned regular casual wear.</p>
<p>xix. (xvii) Bull calves below the age of 3 &amp; above the age of 15 shall not be eligible to participate in the event.</p>	<p>Calves younger than 3 years old were forced to participate at Keelapanaiyur jallikattu.</p>
<p>xx. (xviii) The Vadivasal (the entrance) should be 12×15 feet.</p>	<p>All the events except at Keelapanaiyur jallikattu had narrow vaadi vaasals which were smaller than the specified dimensions.</p>

xxi. (xix) The event should be from 9am to 5pm.

At Viralimalai, the event started before 9 am and ended at 5:30 pm instead of 5 pm.

It is appalling that the PCA (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017; the Tamil Nadu PCA (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules, 2017; and the AWBI jallikattu guidelines for 2018 don't hold the District Collectors, jallikattu organisers, or bull abusers accountable or liable to be punished. This loophole in the legislation gives these individuals a free pass to continue abusing bulls and putting humans in harm's way.

The Tamil Nadu Amendment and Rules and the AWBI's jallikattu guidelines that were issued on 5 January 2018 were neither adequately followed nor sufficient to prevent the suffering of bulls or injuries to humans. The evidence gathered during the 2019 investigations proves that no regulation can or will protect bulls during jallikattu.

## V. Other Information

### A. Madras High Court's Opinion - Asks Whether Jallikattu Can Be Restricted to 'Thai' Month

On 18 February 2019, the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court suggested that the Tamil Nadu government consider conducting jallikattu events in the Tamil month of Thai only, i.e. mid-January to mid-February. The Court suggested this in response to a petition filed by P Balamurugan of Palaganatham. An 18 February 2019 *Times of India* article, "HC: Consider Limiting Jallikattu to Thai Month", states, "After hearing the petition, the court expressed displeasure at jallikattu events being held every month and orally observed that such events hindered work of police and district administration. 'Throughout the year, one group or the other is conducting jallikattu. Let officials concentrate on official work,' the court said and adjourned the hearing to a further date."

## B. News Reports Regarding Cruelty to Animals and Casualties

# Two gored to death in jallikattu at Viralimalai



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUDUKOTTAI , JANUARY 21, 2019 00:33 IST

UPDATED: JANUARY 21, 2019 07:57 IST

SHARE ARTICLE 25 PRINT A | A | A



### Event organised to set a 'record'

Two persons were gored to death and 43 others injured in a mega jallikattu, which was organised by Health Minister C. Vijaya Baskar in a bid to create a "record" and flagged off by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami at Viralimalai in Pudukottai on Sunday. This is the first casualty at a jallikattu event this year.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Bull barges into jallikattu spectator gallery, gores man to death

TNN | Mar 7, 2019, 04:34 AM IST



KRISHNAGIRI: A 44-year-old man was gored to death and four others were injured after a bull barged into the spectator's gallery during the jallikattu held at Ulagam village near Soolagiri here on Wednesday. According to the Soolagiri police, the bull taming sport was conducted in the village without obtaining permission from the police department and the district administration.

The event started around 9.30am and one of the bulls barged into the crowd and gored P Mathaiyan, of Eppalam village, to death. "The bull pierced his stomach and his intestine came out," a police officer said. The remaining four, however, escaped with minor injuries. The injured were taken to the Hosur government hospital.

# Cow and bull killed in erudhattam



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KRISHNAGIRI, FEBRUARY 13, 2019 01:12 IST

UPDATED: FEBRUARY 13, 2019 01:12 IST

SHARE ARTICLE 1 PRINT A | A | A

## Event did not have permission; Collector orders filing of FIR, probe by DSP

A bull and a cow were killed and another bull was critically injured in an erudhattam conducted here in Udhanapalli on Tuesday, exposing violations in the conduct of the event.

A cow that was let into the arena tripped on its own leash and fell. It died as its head twisted after hitting the ground.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Kallakudi jallikattu: Bull tamer gored to death

TNN | Mar 1, 2019, 05:31 PM IST



TRICHY: A 23-year-old bull tamer from Trichy was gored to death by a bull during a jallikattu event at Kallakudi near Lalgudi on Friday. The deceased has been identified as M Manikandan, 23, of Anandhimeedu. He received a blow on his abdomen. The sharp horns of the bull pierced through his stomach.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

## 'Villain' bull dies after suffering injuries during manju virattu event in TN village

TNN | Jan 18, 2019, 08:08 PM IST



'Villain' bull dies after suffering injuries during manju virattu event in TN village

VELLORE: More than 50 villagers bid teary farewell to a 13-year-old bull – Villain – that died on Friday after suffering injuries in a bull race called manju virattu at Munjurpattu on Thursday.

The bull belonged to Palkar (milkman) Mani, 55, of G R Palayam in Vellore. He bought the bull a decade ago and called it Villain, (inspired by the title of Ajith-starrer "Villain" movie) .

The bull had been actively participating in bull races held in the area for the past 10 years. It was also taken to Munjurpattu bull race organised by the villagers on Thursday.

Villain, which was among the 60 bulls that were set in a wooden barricaded track as part of the game, suddenly got terrified and started

charging on the tamers who tried to pounce on the animal.

TAMIL NADU

## Eight policemen injured in rioting during illegal erudhattam



### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HOSUR, FEBRUARY 21, 2019 07:10 IST

UPDATED: FEBRUARY 21, 2019 07:10 IST

### Spectators turned violent when police tried to stop the event

Eight policemen and few fire and rescue personnel were injured in rioting during an erudhattam organised illegally here on Wednesday at Madakondapalli in Denkanakottai. Two vehicles belonging to the police and one of the fire services were damaged.

An irate spectator-mob hurled stones at the skeletal police force that was deployed to disperse a little over 1000 people who had gathered at the venue.

The event was organised without permission from the district administration as part of the Sri Prasanna Venkateswara temple festivities.



## Youths lock horns with tamers at Namakkal jallikattu event

TNN | Mar 4, 2019, 09.41 AM IST

NAMAKKAL: The bull taming sport held at Komarapalayam here on Sunday witnessed unruly scenes, after a group of youths from the spectator's gallery jumped into the arena and started chasing bulls.

Police had to resort to lathi-charge to chase them away from the arena in the presence of education minister K A Sengottaiyan, electricity minister P Thangamani and health minister C Vijayabaskar.

The event had to be suspended for 30 minutes because of the intrusion of the youths. The delay made the bulls, which were waiting in a queue to be let inside the arena, restless. A few bulls jumped over the barricade erected to regulate them before releasing them into the arena through the vadivasal. One bull collapsed in the melee.

The Komarapalayam jallikattu is a popular event that features more than 500 bulls from across the state. The event, which was scheduled to start at 8.30am, commenced only at 10am after all the ministers arrived at the venue. About 30 minutes later, more than a dozen youths from the gallery jumped inside the arena and started to chase the bulls.

### VI. Discussion and Conclusion

The findings of the 2019 investigation include rampant cruelty to bulls, such as deliberately placing them in terrifying situations, twisting and biting their tails, stabbing and jabbing them with sickles and other weapons, hitting and jumping on them, tackling them, forcing dehydrated and exhausted bulls who had collapsed to participate, hitting bulls with bare hands, and not providing them with basic necessities, including shade, water, and feed.

In 2019 alone, 597 humans were reportedly injured and at least eight died and at least five bulls and one cow died.

The District Collectors, jallikattu committees, bull tamers, police, and spectators failed miserably to ensure that state laws were obeyed, adding to the pain and suffering inherent at jallikattu events.

Since The PCA (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017, gives a blanket exemption for jallikattu events under The PCA Act, 1960, and the Tamil Nadu PCA (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules, 2017, prescribes a punishment for treating animals cruelly that bars people from participating further in the event, those who abuse bulls during these events always get off scot-free. **No fines or jail time are provided for in order to penalise or deter violators.** That gives these people, including the organisers who fail to ensure adherence to the rules, a free pass to violate them.

PETA India's investigation has proved that no amount of regulation can eliminate cruelty during jallikattu, as the very purpose of the spectacle is to terrify, tame, and taunt bulls and to subject them to immense physical and mental trauma. The investigation into the seven jallikattu events shows that the regulations in The PCA (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017; The Tamil Nadu PCA (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules, 2017; and the conduct of jallikattu guidelines issued by the AWBI on 5 January 2018 are also impractical and thus bound to be violated.

The interim orders and guidelines issued by the Supreme Court of India since 2008 were brazenly flouted at all jallikattu events which were previously inspected by the AWBI, and even those guidelines which were followed were not sufficient to prevent the suffering of animals or injuries to humans. The statistics shared by the AWBI show that as many as 43 people died during jallikattu events between 2008 and 2014. At least four bulls also died during that period. The evidence gathered during those AWBI inspections proved that no regulation can or will protect bulls from misery. That's why, through its 2014 judgment, the Honourable Supreme Court banned jallikattu and stated that when culture and tradition are at variance with the law enacted by Parliament, the law will take precedence.

There is so much more to the Pongal festival than taunting bulls, including praying and singing, garlanding and decorating bulls, eating sweets, providing God with offerings, and doing charitable deeds. The purpose of the festival is to give thanks to nature for the harvest, and that's not something that can be achieved by tormenting bulls and causing humans and bulls to be injured and die.

Animal torture is not something to regulate – and regulations can't negate the fundamental cruelty of deliberately tormenting bulls. Many peer-reviewed papers demonstrate a link between the actions of humans and the fear, distress, and pain experienced by other species. Research has shown that handling animals roughly or abusively compromises their welfare and increases their fear of humans. Bulls who are pushed, hit, prodded, or otherwise abused during jallikattu suffer mentally as well as physically. The ban imposed by the Supreme Court of India must be continued in order to prevent bulls from enduring cruelty and dying as well as to protect humans from being hurt and killed.

