

## 1. SC allows Jallikattu and Kambala

Topic: Polity and Governance



**In News:** The Supreme Court has upheld amendments made by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, to allow the traditional bull-taming sports of Jallikattu and Kambala, and bullock-cart racing.

### More on the Topic

- SC has overruled its 2014 ruling in **‘Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja’** and held that Jallikattu has a strong cultural component.
- SC ruled that the amendments, made in 2017 were “valid legislations”.
- it added that the jallikattu issue was “debatable”, and must **ultimately be decided by the House of the People (Lok Sabha)**.
- Making this decision requires social and cultural analysis in greater detail, and such an exercise “cannot be undertaken by the judiciary.
- The court also said that the 2017 amendment does not violate –
- **Articles 51-A (g) and 51-A (h), which impose duties on Indian citizens to protect the environment and develop a scientific temper, humanism, spirit of inquiry, and reform, respectively.**
- Articles 14 (Right to Equality) and 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution.

### About Jallikattu:

- Jallikattu, also known as eruthazhuvuthal, is a bull-taming sport traditionally played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival.

- The festival is a **celebration of nature, and thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest**, of which cattle-worship is part.
- However, the practice of jallikattu has long been contested, with animal rights groups and the courts expressing concern over cruelty to animals and the bloody and dangerous nature of the sport that sometimes causes death and injuries to both the bulls and human participants.
- In the present case, the petitioners challenged the Tamil Nadu amendment that allowed jallikattu, **contending that since the central law prohibits cruelty to animals, there could not be an amending Act that perpetuates cruelty.**
- The plea also named states like Karnataka and Maharashtra as parties to the case, since they too have similar bull-related sports.

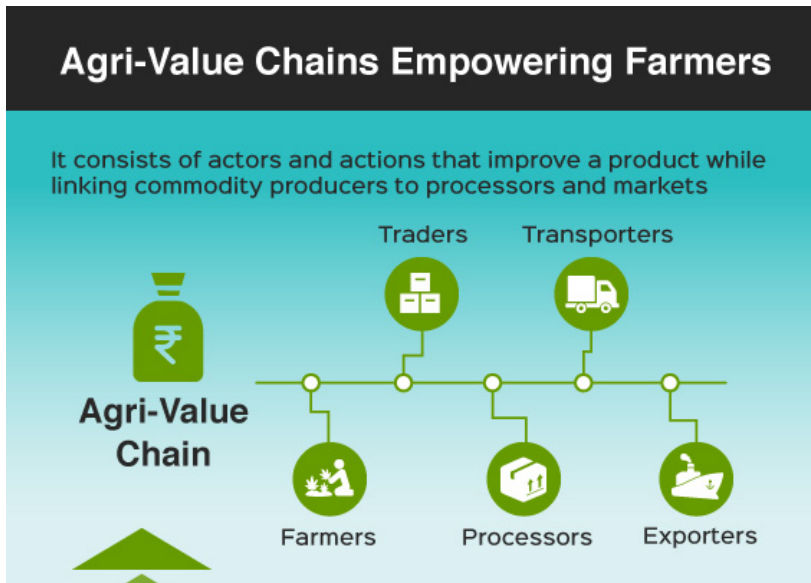
**About Kambala:**

- Kambala is an annual buffalo race held in the southwestern Indian state of Karnataka.
- Traditionally, it is sponsored by local Tuluva landlords and households in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod of Kerala, a region collectively known as Tulu Nadu.

**Source: Indian Express**

## 2. Making Agri Commodity Value Chains Sustainable

**Topic: Agriculture**





**In News:** It is important to make Agri value chain sustainable by India.

**More on the Topic:**

**What is Agri-commodity value chains:**

- Agri-commodity value chains refer to **the entire process of production, processing, distribution, and consumption of agricultural commodities, from farm to fork.**
- “Making Agri-commodity value chains sustainable” means the practice of ensuring that the agricultural value chain **minimizes negative environmental and social impacts** while promoting long-term economic viability.
- Making agri-commodity value chains sustainable is essential to **protect the environment, ensure long-term agricultural productivity, meet consumer demands, address global sustainability challenges, promote stakeholder accountability, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.**
- Ensuring that an agricultural commodity value chain is environmentally sustainable is a multi-dimensional challenge.
- Four dimensions in particular vex efforts to mitigate its environmental impact while benefiting farmers, processors, retailers, etc.

**First, market and producer characteristics:**

- It determine where responsible and effective practices can be implemented to have the greatest impact.
- For example, the expansion of cold-storage facilities to make export-oriented commodities more competitive in global markets is expected to increase energy demand.
- Estimating how this energy need will be met – through fossil fuels or renewables – is likely to determine the emissions associated with that commodity.

**Second, the nature of production:**

- It significantly determines the nature of intervention.
- the public attention on millets, through the declaration of the ‘International Year of Millets’, has helped widen demand across Indian and international consumers.
- Regionally, some efforts have led to climate, biodiversity, and livelihood benefits while helping preserve our ecological heritage in production landscapes.
- For example, evidence suggests that the introduction of biodiversity-friendly coffee in Karnataka has mitigated human-animal conflicts in the region to a significant extent.

**Third, strong governance mechanisms and policies:**

- They support value chains, either by providing subsidies, market access, and infrastructural support in terms of extension, processing, and storage facilities – or by a combination of several such aspects.
- Repurposing such support to improve production, sourcing, and consumption by targeting healthy and natural solutions can help have transformational impacts in commodity value chains.

- Example: national guidelines on responsible business urge organisations to encourage and support their suppliers, distributors, partners, and other stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices.

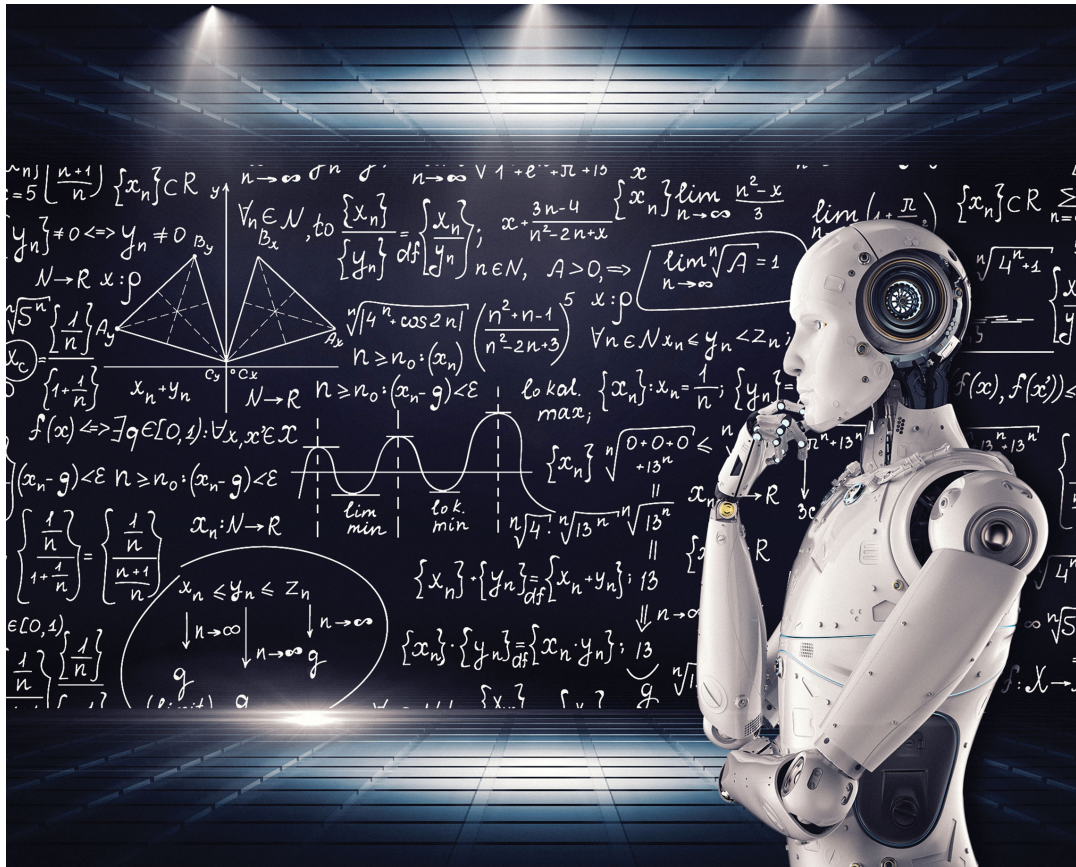
**Fourth, Attention to the Dependents:**

- No initiative to mitigate the environmental effects of agricultural value chains can be complete without benefiting the large number of people that depend on these value chains for sustenance.

Source: PIB

### 3.Imminent Challenges and the Future of Artificial Intelligence

**Topic: Science and Technology**



**In News:** Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, the startup behind the sensational AI chatbot ChatGPT, testified before the US congress on the imminent challenges and the future of AI technology.



### More on the Topic:

#### The Moment's on Social Media:

- The regulatory bodies has failed to regulate social media realising its potential threats at the beginning of its inception period.
- Realising this there is need for understanding and regulating AI from its potential threat to societies.

#### Invention of AI - An atom bomb or printing press moment?

- AI has the potential to improve nearly every aspect of our lives. In this perspective AI can be a printing-press moment.
- If AI technology goes wrong, it can go quite wrong. It will cause significant harm to the world. In this perspective AI invention is an Atom bomb moment.

#### AI and Jobs:

- AI model and other AI models do excel at completing tasks but are not capable at completing a full job yet.
- Some jobs will transition away due to AI.
- AI may automate some jobs, it can also create new and better ones.

#### Need to Regulate AI:

- Regulating the AI that would maximise the benefits of the transformative technology while minimising the harms.
- Government must consider licensing and testing requirements of development and release of AI models.
- Companies like OpenAI should be **independently audited**. "For a very new technology we need a new framework."

Source: Hindu

---

## 4.RBI withdrawn Rs 2,000 Notes

**Topic: Economy**





**In News:** The central bank has advised the public to deposit Rs 2000 banknotes, which were introduced after Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes were withdrawn during the demonetisation exercise six years ago, into their bank accounts and /or exchange them into banknotes of other denominations at any bank branch.

**More on the Topic:**

- The Rs 2000 note was introduced in November 2016 under Section 24(1) of The RBI Act, 1934, primarily with the objective of meeting the currency requirement of the economy expeditiously after the legal tender status of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes was withdrawn.
- With the fulfilment of that objective, and once notes of other denominations were available in adequate quantities, the printing of Rs 2000 notes was stopped in 2018-19.
- The RBI issued the majority of the Rs 2000 denomination notes prior to March 2017; these notes are now at the end of their estimated lifespan of 4-5 years.
- This denomination is no longer commonly used for transactions; besides, there is adequate stock of banknotes in other denominations to meet currency requirements.
- In view of the above, and in pursuance of the '**Clean Note Policy**' of the **Reserve Bank of India**, it has been decided to withdraw the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation.

**Clean Note Policy?**

- The Clean Note Policy seeks to give the public good-quality currency notes and coins with better security features, while soiled notes are withdrawn out of circulation.

**Source: Indian Express**

---

## 5. Pacific Ocean Leak

**Topic: Geography**



**In News:** The discovery of a leak at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Oregon has created concerns worldwide.

**More on the Topic:**

- The hole at the Pacific Ocean’s bottom has been steadily leaking warm tectonic lubricant liquid into the ocean. This hole is about 80 km off the Oregon coast.
- Researchers are worrying that this hole could trigger a huge megathrust earthquake.
- The liquid is coming from **the Cascadia megathrust (the boundary between two of Earth’s tectonic plates)**, where temperatures are estimated to be around 300 and 500 degrees fahrenheit.
- The megathrust is the area between the Juan de Fuca tectonic plate and the North American plate.
- The fault’s loss of fluid could **lower the fluid pressure between the two plates**, which can then cause friction.
- The researchers believe this is the first known leak of its kind in this ocean.

**Source: Business Standard**

---

## 6. CVV-less Payments

**Topic: Economy**





**In News:** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) - RuPay has now introduced the CVV (Card Verification Value) free payment experience for its debit, credit and prepaid cardholders who have tokenised their cards on the merchant application or webpage.

**More on the Topic:**

- This new CVV-less experience ensures that the cardholder will not have to reach out to their wallet or remember any card details, if they have saved (tokenised) their card on the e-commerce merchant which supports this feature.
- **Tokenisation is a simple technology to secure card transactions without sharing the clear or real card details with the merchants.**
- When a cardholder opts to save their card for a domestic e-commerce transaction, they authenticate the transaction through the card details (Card number, CVV, Card expiry date) as a one time activity followed by entering the OTP (two-factor authentication), the details are then Tokenised and saved with the merchant.

**Card Verification Value (CVV):**

- **CVV - Card Verification Value (CVV) is a three or four-digit number** located on the back of a physical debit or credit card.
- It is used as an additional security measure to ensure that the person making the transaction is a legitimate cardholder.

**Source: Business Standard**

---

## 7. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

**Topic: Polity and Governance**







**In News:** Dr Manoj Soni took the Oath as the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission.

**More on the Topic:**

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is a **Constitutional Body under Article 315-323 Part XIV of the Constitution.**
- It is the central recruiting agency of India.
- It conducts examinations for appointments to the All-India Services and various Group A and Group B Services of the Union.
- The Commission with **maximum of 10 members is headed by a Chairman.**

**Appointment, Removal and Tenure:**

- The appointment of the Chairman and members of UPSC is given in the [Article-316](#) of the Constitution.
- **The Chairman and other members of UPSC shall be appointed** the President of India.
- The Chairmen and members can be removed only by the President.
- The chairman and members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Their salary is charged from **the Consolidated Fund of India.**

**Source: Business Standard**

---