



FIFA Ban on India

Why in News?

Recently, **Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)**, suspended the country's top administrative organization, the **All-India Football Federation (AIFF)**, for **undue influence from third parties**.

- This suspension took away the country's rights to hold the [FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022](#), scheduled to be held from October 11-30.



What is FIFA?

▪ About:

- FIFA or the Federation Internationale de Football Association is the highest governing body of football in the world.
- It is the international governing body of association football, futsal, and beach soccer.
- FIFA is a non-profit organisation.
- Founded in 1904, FIFA was launched to oversee international competition among the national associations of **Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland**. FIFA now comprises 211 member nations.
- It is headquartered in **Zurich**.

▪ Objectives:

- The primary objective of FIFA is to spread football internationally and promoting integrity and fair play.
- It is responsible for the organization and promotion of international tournaments, including the men's World Cup, which started in 1930, and the women's World Cup, which began in 1991.
- It is **affiliated with the International Olympic Committee** and is also a member of the **International Football Association Board**, which is responsible for setting the rules of football.
- **Six Regional confederations affiliated with FIFA:**

- The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** is the governing body for Asia and Australia.
- **Confederation of African Football (CAF)** has 56 members,
- Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (**CONCACAF**) has 41 members,
- **Confederation Sudamericana de Fútbol (CONMEBOL)** is the South American federation with 10 members,
- **Oceania Football Federation (OFC)** has 14 members including New Zealand,
- **Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)** with 55 members is the governing body for Europe.

What is AIFF?

- The All-India Football Federation (AIFF) is the organization that manages the game of association football in India.
- It administers the running of the India national football team and also controls the I-League, India's premier domestic club competition, in addition to various other competitions and teams.
- The AIFF was founded in 1937, and gained FIFA affiliation in the year 1948, after India's independence in 1947.
- Currently, it has an office in Dwarka, New Delhi. India was one of the founding members of the Asian Football Confederation in 1954.

Why Did FIFA Ban the All-India Football Federation (AIFF)?

- **AIFF'S President's Unwillingness to Vacate His Post:**
 - President Praful Patel, also a FIFA council member, refused to relinquish his post as the head of football in the country.
 - He cited the long-drawn-out pandemic, coupled with a court case regarding the AIFF constitution.
- **Third-Party Intervention:**
 - Despite the growing concerns about the working of AIFF, the [Supreme Court of India](#) **intervened and removed Patel from his post.**
 - Further, The SC also appointed a **Committee of Administrators (COA)** to run the AIFF.
 - As per FIFA Statutes, member federations should not be subject to legal and political interference in their respective countries.
 - Third Party Intervention refers to **a situation in which a member association of FIFA fails to remain independent, is co-opted, and no longer has control over its organization.**
 - In India's case, the SC's diktat to the COA to run the AIFF was a textbook case of third-party interference.

What Does the Suspension Mean to India?

- It means that there would be **no international football participation by India, and this applies to all national teams, club teams** across all age groups.
- The suspension also **impacts international transfers**, as well as **any courses or developmental programs that AIFF officials** could, or were taking part in.
 - This in effect means a total ban on **all football-related activities outside India.**
- However, the league in the country, as well as domestic transfers, can continue.

What Does India have to do to Lift the Ban?

- According to FIFA, to lift the ban on AIFF, it needs to follow the directives which are as follows:
 - The **mandates of the COA** would have **to be repealed in full.**
 - The AIFF administration would need **to be completely in charge of its day-to-day**

running once again.

- The **AIFF constitution** is to be **revised on the terms of FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) policies**, and the election is to be held on current AIFF membership structures that are based on state associations only.

[Source: IE](#)

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