



# World Anti-Doping Report 2022

**For Prelims:** [World Anti-Doping Agency](#), [National Anti-Doping Agency](#), [Anti-Doping](#), [National Anti-Doping Act](#), [UNESCO](#).

**For Mains:** Ethical implications of doping in sports, Effectiveness of government policies related to Anti-Doping, India's anti-doping efforts

[Source: BS](#)

## Why in News?

The [World Anti-Doping Agency \(WADA\) anti-doping report, 2022](#), released by the WADA reveals alarming statistics on **global doping violations**, emphasising the need for stringent measures to safeguard the integrity of sports.

## What are the Key Findings of the Report?

- **India Leads Globally in Doping Offences:**
  - India emerged with the highest percentage of doping offenders, accounting for 3.26% of tested athletes.
    - Out of 3,865 samples tested by India's [National Anti-Doping Agency \(NADA\)](#), 125 returned **Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs)**, making India the only country with over 100 positive results and the highest among nations testing more than 2,000 samples.
      - An AAF is a report from a **WADA-accredited laboratory** that identifies the **presence of a prohibited substance and/or its metabolites or markers in a sample**.
  - Despite being **11<sup>th</sup> in the number of samples tested**, India's doping violations surpassed major sporting nations like Russia, the USA, Italy, and France.
- **Comparison with Other Nations:**
  - South Africa followed India with 2.09% of samples testing positive among nations collecting over 2,000 samples.
  - **China tested the most samples (17,357), producing only 0.25% AAFs**, while the USA (84) and Russia (85) closely followed India in the number of positive results.
- **Overall Increase in Testing and AAFs:**
  - WADA reported a 6.4% increase in the total number of samples analysed and reported into its **Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS)** in 2022 compared to 2021, signalling a positive trend towards maintaining the integrity of sports.
    - The percentage of AAFs rose from 0.65% in 2021 to 0.77% in 2022.
  - The director general of WADA, emphasised the importance of intelligence-led strategic testing plans along with values-based education, intelligence, investigations, and other strategies to combat doping effectively.

## What are the Implications of These Findings for India?

- **Concerns Regarding Athletes:**
  - The prevalence of **doping among young athletes** raises serious concerns about their **physical and mental development**.
    - Doping poses significant health risks to athletes and undermines their long-term well-being.
  - It is imperative for **India to prioritise the health and safety of its athletes** by implementing measures to prevent doping and promote clean sports culture.
- **Reputation Damage:**
  - India's standing as the country with the highest percentage of doping offenders tarnishes its **reputation in the international sports community**.
  - The prevalence of doping could **erode trust in Indian athletes and cast doubts on their achievements**, impacting India's credibility in global sports.
- **Olympic 2024:**
  - A total of **142 Indian athletes were caught for doping-related activities** in the period between April 2022 and March 2023, data compiled by the NADA has revealed.
  - Doping violations may pose a significant risk of disqualification for Indian athletes in the coming [Olympics 2024](#), depriving them of the opportunity to compete and represent their country at the highest level of sporting competition.
  - The threat of disqualification highlights the need for India to address doping effectively and ensure clean participation in the Olympics.
- **Discrepancies in Testing Efforts:**
  - While the total number of samples tested increased from 1,794 in 2021 to 3,865 in 2022, it pales in **comparison to countries like China, which tested 17,357 samples (almost five times that of India) but produced just 33 positive results**.
    - Despite increased testing, the number of positive cases remains a concern, indicating the need for more comprehensive measures.
- **Regulatory Oversight:**
  - India's position at the top of the doping offenders list raises concerns and highlights systemic **issues within the country's anti-doping framework**.
    - There is a pressing need to strengthen regulatory frameworks and enhance monitoring mechanisms to curb doping effectively.
- **Economic Impact:**
  - The doping crisis could have economic repercussions, affecting **sponsorships, investments, and revenue streams** associated with Indian sports.
  - Upholding integrity in sports is essential to sustain and grow India's sports industry and economy.

## What is Anti-Doping?

- **About:**
  - Doping is the **act of consuming artificial and often illegal substances to gain an advantage over others** in sporting competitions (For example: anabolic steroids, human growth hormones, stimulants and diuretics).
    - Doping products are often illegally produced, trafficked and distributed. As they are rarely approved for public use, their consumption is dangerous and poses a serious health risk to both professional and amateur sports people.
  - **Anti Doping** is opposing or **prohibiting illegal doping to improve athletic performance**.
- **India's Initiatives Related to Anti-Doping:**
  - **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA):**
    - NADA was set up as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 in 2005, with a mandate of creating dope-free sports in India.
    - NADA is responsible for planning, implementing, and coordinating India's anti-doping activities. It **adheres to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code and regulations**.
  - **The National Anti-Doping Act 2022:**
    - The [National Anti-Doping Act 2022](#) provides legal backing to NADA's. for regulating anti-doping activities in sports and to give effect to the [United Nations Educational](#).

[Scientific and Cultural Organisation \(UNESCO\)](#) International Convention against doping in sport.

- The act aims to ensure the highest standards of integrity while participating and preparing for sports competitions, both domestically and internationally.
- **National Dope Testing Laboratories (NDTL):**
  - NDTL under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, is responsible for sample analysis and research work in the field of dope analysis.
  - The **NDTL is WADA-accredited**, this accreditation is a testament to the NDTL's commitment to quality and accuracy in its testing procedures.

## World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

- Established in 1999 by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** to combat doping in sports globally. WADA's governance and funding are based on equal partnership between the Sport Movement and Governments of the world.
  - The **IOC is a not-for-profit independent international organisation** committed to building a better world through sport. Established in 1894, it is the supreme authority of the **Olympic Movement**, fostering collaboration among all parties involved in the Olympic family.
- Its mission is to promote and coordinate the fight against doping in sports internationally.
- **Headquarters: Montreal (Canada).**
- The **World Anti-Doping Code (Code)** is the core document produced by WADA that harmonises anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within sports organisations and among public authorities.
  - It is designed to harmonise anti-doping policies and ensure the standards are the same for all athletes.
- The **WADA Prohibited List** is the international standard for identifying banned substances and methods in sports.
  - It is updated annually and applies to both in-competition and out-of-competition scenarios, as well as specific sports.

## Way Forward

- **Increased Vigilance:**
  - Authorities need to tread cautiously and increase vigilance to prevent doping scandals from tarnishing the country's reputation.
  - NADA should ramp up testing efforts to detect and deter doping among athletes, especially high-profile ones.
  - All stakeholders, including NADA, national sports federations, the Sports Authority of India, and related NGOs, must collaborate to tackle the issue effectively.
- **China's Approach:**
  - Consideration of **criminalising doping, with penalties including jail time** for athletes and coaches, similar to China's approach.
  - China criminalised doping in sports resulting in a significant drop in doping cases.
    - Under these rules individuals encouraging athletes to use banned substances **may face up to three years in prison and a fine**. Organisers of doping may receive even harsher penalties, and knowingly offering banned substances to athletes is deemed a criminal offence.
  - In the 2022 WADA report, China had significantly fewer positive results, demonstrating the effectiveness of strict penalties.
- **Education:**
  - Athletes need to be educated about the dangers of doping and provided with proper guidance on supplements.
- **Doping Detection:**
  - Develop and **implement new technologies to stay ahead of evolving doping**

**methods.** Use athlete data, competition trends, and whistleblower information to target high-risk areas.

**Drishti Mains Question:**

Q. How can India address the alarming increase in doping violations among athletes and safeguard the integrity of sports.

**UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

**Mains**

Q. An athlete participates in the Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement. **(2014)**

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