



National Anti-Doping Bill, 2021

For Prelims: Doping, NADA, WADA

For Mains: Provisions of National Anti-Doping Bill 2021 and Related Issues

Why in News?

Recently, the [Lok Sabha](#) passed the National Anti-Doping Bill 2021 Bill that seeks to create a **statutory framework for the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**.

- Piloted by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, it was first introduced in Lok Sabha in December 2021.
- The bill will **protect the interest of sportspersons** as it will provide ample space for them to put forth their versions especially when they face anti-doping charges.

What are the Key Features of the Bill?

- **Prohibition of Doping:**
 - The Bill prohibits athletes, athlete support personnel and other persons from engaging in doping in sport.
- **Consequences of Violations:**
 - Anti-doping rule violation may result in **disqualification of results including forfeiture of medals, points, and prizes**, ineligibility to participate in a competition or event for a prescribed period, financial sanctions etc.
- **Statutory Backing for National Anti-Doping Agency:**
 - The Bill provides for constituting this National Anti-Doping Agency as a statutory body.
 - It will be headed by a **Director General appointed by the central government**. Functions of the Agency include,
 - Planning, implementing, and monitoring anti-doping activities,
 - Investigating anti-doping rule violations,
 - Promoting anti-doping research.
- **National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports:**
 - The Bill establishes a **National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports** to make recommendations to the government on anti-doping regulation and compliance with international commitments on anti-doping.
 - The Board will **oversee the activities of the Agency and issue directions to it**.
- **Dope Testing Laboratories:**
 - The existing National Dope Testing Laboratory **will be deemed to be the principal dope testing laboratory**.
 - The central government may establish more National Dope Testing Laboratories.

What is the Significance of the Bill?

- The bill **attempts to achieve, time-bound justice to athletes**, apart from enhancing

cooperation among agencies in fighting doping.

- It is also an **attempt to reinforce India's commitment to fulfil international obligations for clean sports.**
- The bill would **help in establishing a robust, independent mechanism for anti-doping adjudication.**
- The bill also would lend legal sanctity to the functioning of NADA and National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).

What are the Issues with the Bill?

- The **qualifications of the Director General are not specified in the Bill** and are left to be notified through Rules.
- The central government **may remove the Director General from the office on grounds of misbehavior or incapacity** or "such other ground".
- Leaving these provisions to the discretion of the central government **may affect the independence of the Director General.**
 - This also goes against the mandate of the World Anti-Doping Agency that such bodies must be independent in their operations.
- Under the Bill, the **Board has powers to remove the members of the Disciplinary Panel and Appeal Panel** on grounds which will be specified by regulations and are not specified in the Bill.
- Further, there is **no requirement to give them an opportunity of being heard.** This may affect the independent functioning of these panels.

What is Doping and Related Agencies?

- **About:**
 - Consumption of **certain prohibited substances** by athletes to enhance performance.
- **NADA:**
 - National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) was set up as a registered society **under the Societies Registration Act of 1860** on 24th November, 2005 with a mandate for Dope free sports in India.
 - The primary objectives are **to implement anti-doping rules as per [WADA \(World Anti-Doping Agency\) code](#)**, regulate dope control programme, to promote education and research and creating awareness about doping and its ill effects.
 - The NADA has the **necessary authority and responsibility for:**
 - Planning, coordinating, implementing, monitoring and advocating improvements in Doping Control,
 - Cooperating with other relevant national organisations, agencies and other Anti-Doping Organisations etc.
- **WADA:**
 - In November, 1999 the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** was set up under the International Olympic Committee.
 - WADA is recognised by the **UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport (2005).**
 - WADA's primary role is to develop, harmonise, and coordinate anti-doping regulations across all sports and countries.
 - It **does so** by ensuring proper implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA Code) and its standards, conducting investigations into doping incidents, conducting research on doping, and educating sportspersons and related personnel on anti-doping regulations.

[Source: IE](#)

