

## Online Sports Betting

### Why in news?

\n\n

Ministry of Sports is undertaking consultations to legalise online sports betting in India.

\n\n

### What is Sport betting?

\n\n

\n

- A sport betting is the activity of predicting sports results and placing a wager on the outcome.

\n

- The sports department is preparing an MoU with the UK which exhibits one of the successful models of legalised gambling.

\n

\n\n

### How it is done in India?

\n\n

\n

- The illegal betting market in India is worth around 10 lakh crore.

\n

- Most of it is done via local bookmakers and unregulated offshore websites.

\n

- Sports ministry is now trying to absorb this revenue by legalising online betting.

\n

\n\n

### What is the rationale behind the move?

\n\n

\n

- At present, betting is legal only on horse racing, and it is taxed.

- \n
- Legalising other online sports betting can address the issue of poor funding for sports at central and state level.
- \n
- Possibility of diverting a part of the revenue generated from betting towards the ministry's programmes.
- \n
- The issue of legalising betting gathered momentum when former Chief Justice of India R M Lodha recommended it in his report to the Supreme Court last year, saying that betting should be legalised in cricket
- \n

\n\n

### **What are the challenges?**

\n\n

- \n
- Betting is seen as a sensitive socio-political issue especially after the recent match-fixing and spot-fixing controversies in Cricket.
- \n
- The challenge lies in balancing the economic benefits and ethical concerns with betting.
- \n

\n\n

\n**Source: The Indian Express**

\n\n

\n\n

\n