

## Changes in Shooting Sport

### Why in news?

\n\n

International Olympic Committee's (IOC) proposed to make ranges across the world bullet-free by introducing laser shooting.

\n\n

### What is 'laser shooting'?

\n\n

\n

- The sport of shooting currently has three disciplines—Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun.

\n

- The shooters use either real bullets or pellets.

\n

- If the change is forced, then the pistols and rifles used by sports shooters will fire laser beams at the targets instead of bullets.

\n

- The IOC's proposal is to bring this change only in Rifle and Pistol events for the time being.

\n

\n\n

### Why is IOC proposing the change?

\n\n

\n

- **Appeal** - The most important reason is to make shooting more appealing to millennials, whose support and interest all sport needs to survive.

\n

- Shooting flashy red beams will make the sport attractive and fashionable and engage a wider audience.

\n

- The change **will also make shooting television-friendly**.

\n

- **Gun control norms** - It will also take care of the complications involved in carrying weapons and ammunition by shooters while travelling from one country to another. This requires a lot of paperwork and clearances. e.g IOC faced a lot of trouble in getting these aspects sorted during the 2012 London Olympics because of the strict gun laws in the United Kingdom.

\n

- **Environment** - Another important issue is that shooting at present is **not completely environment-friendly**.

\n

\n\n

\n

- The bullets that the shooters use are made of lead, which gets into the atmosphere every time a shot is fired.

\n

- The chemical can potentially have an adverse effect on the nervous system as well. Thousands of bullets are used at each shooting range every day.

\n

\n\n

## **What was the reaction to the move?**

\n\n

\n

- The ISSF insist the sport will not change and have conveyed this to the IOC.

\n

- Shooters are also not excited about laser shooting.

\n

- But most of them do seem resigned to the fact that the change will eventually take place.

\n

\n\n

\n

- They feel that the basic fabric of the sport will be impacted.

\n

- The ISSF says that laser technology is as yet not developed to the level where it can create the same environment during competitions as real bullets.

\n

- Shooters say that shooting involves a lot of intangibles like wind speed.

Lasers will take those away and make the sport too literal and predictable.

\n

\n\n

\n

- The biggest difficulty for governing bodies will be to fight the weapons lobby to bring the change.

\n

- This is a multi-million dollar industry, which will be directly impacted if the sport moves from bullets to lasers.

\n

\n\n

### **Why should India be worried?**

\n\n

\n

- Shooting is one of the few Olympic sports in which India has consistently done well.

\n

- Such a fundamental change would undoubtedly severely impact the country's prospects.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Indian Express**

\n

