

## Press Release

### **NADA utilises KIYG 2019 to conduct mass anti-doping awareness programme**

**Pune, January 9:** The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is using the Khelo India Youth Games here to conduct mass awareness programmes for the 6000 competing athletes from around the country. NADA Director General Navin Aggarwal was at hand to speak with some athletes who attended the anti-doping awareness session on Wednesday.

“We know that this a great platform to spread awareness since the athletes here represent the cream of India’s young talent, some of whom will go on to represent the country at the highest levels,” he said. “As many as 12 athletes tested positive for prohibited substances at the Khelo India School Games in Delhi last year and that is the reason we are reaching out to every athlete here.”

In response to a question, Mr. Aggarwal revealed that besides publishing the WADA prohibited list on its website, NADA had opened a helpline to assist athletes in case they have a query. He also advised the athletes to mention in the dope control form any prescribed medicines that they may have consumed in the time before the sample collection.

NADA has roped in sports medicine specialists Dr. PSM Chandran and Dr. CS Jayaprakash to conduct comprehensive, interactive sessions with the young athletes in batches. Over the past two days, more than 700 athletes have been part of the anti-doping awareness programme. Many curious young minds have become more aware of the dos and don’ts they need to remember.

The heartening thing was that the athletes not only paid attention to what was being shared by way of education but also asked a range questions of the NADA Director-General and the two specialists. It was an affirmation that a majority of young athletes are committed to staying clean and competing hard.

Meanwhile, NADA has already collected 19 out of competition samples from weightlifting, judo and wrestling. The NADA Director General said many tests would be conducted during the Games that will run through to January 20. Last year, NADA had collected 377 samples during KISG2018.