

FIFA World Cup, 2026

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Sports

Why in News?

Recently, the 23rd FIFA Men's World Cup has begun.

- **FIFA** - Federation Internationale de Football Association.
- It is the ***global governing body for football***, managing its rules and development worldwide.
- **Founded in** - Paris in 1904.
- **Headquarters** - Zurich, Switzerland.
- **Members**- 211 national associations.

All India Football Federation (AIFF), has been officially affiliated with FIFA since 1948, but never played a match in FIFA World Cup.

- **Flagship Tournaments** -
 - FIFA World Cup,
 - FIFA Women's World Cup and the
 - FIFA Club World Cup.
- **First Tournament** - 1930, hosted by Uruguay (Winner - Uruguay).
- **Frequency** - Held **every 4 years** (except during WW-II).
- **Expansion** - 13 teams (1930) to 48 teams (2026).
- **Titles** - Brazil (5), Germany (4), Italy (4), Argentina (3 - defending champions), France (2).

Argentina defends title; only Italy and Brazil have ever retained the trophy.

FIFA World Cup, 2026

- **Hosted by** - United States, Canada, Mexico (first time jointly hosted by 3

nations - **Canada** hosting for the first time).

- **Significant Changes**

- **Format** - Expanded to 48 teams, 12 groups of 4 and 104 matches to promote inclusivity, expand global reach, increase commercial value.
- **Star Highlight** - Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo expected to make their 6th and final World Cup appearance.

Quick Facts

FIFA Peace Prize

- **Established on** - 2025 to honour individuals taking exceptional actions for peace and unity across the world.
- The inaugural prize was presented to U.S. President Donald Trump

FIFA World Cup

- 18-carat solid gold prize, depicts two human figures holding up the Earth.
- Winning nations now receive only a bronze and gold-plated replica (Winners' Trophy), while the original solid gold trophy is kept permanently at the FIFA Museum in Zurich, Switzerland.

Reference

[The Hindu | FIFA](#)

