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.

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- **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

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