

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 20, 2022

STATES

- On November 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the new Donyi Polo Airport, the first greenfield facility in Arunachal Pradesh.



- ✓ The airport is located at Hollongi, which is around 15km from state capital Itanagar
- ✓ It will link the border state to other Indian cities with commercial flights as well as other parts of Arunachal Pradesh through helicopter services.
- ✓ This is the country's first airport to be named after the sun and moon, as Donyi refers to sun and Polo refers to Moon.
- ✓ During his address, the PM highlighted the government's efforts to develop all border villages under the Vibrant Border Village Programme which will boost tourism in the region
- ✓ Further, the PM also remotely inaugurated the 600-MW Kameng hydroelectric project, the biggest in the region.
- ✓ PM Modi had laid the airport's foundation stone in February 2019.
- ✓ This is the fourth operational commercial airport in the frontier state that also has six other airstrips for the military.

- ✓ With the new airport at Hollongi, the Northeast now has 16 operational commercial airports.
 - ✓ The Rs 640-crore Donyi Polo airport covers more than 690 acres, with a 2,300m runway equipped with all-weather day operation systems and can handle Airbus A320/Boeing 737 or similar aircraft.
 - ✓ As per the government, the Northeast is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the government's UDAN regional connectivity scheme.
 - ✓ On November 2, the Cabinet approved the state's government's proposal for renaming the Hollongi airport as Donyi Polo airport, Itanagar
- **On November 15, Madhya Pradesh government - has implemented the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in the state**
- ✓ The formal announcement was made by President Droupadi Murmu at a function organised by state government on the occasion of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' (Tribal Pride Day) in Shahdol district
 - ✓ The Day marks the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangu Bhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with several tribal ministers from the state and the Centre were present on the occasion
 - ✓ The PESA Act aims to preserve the tribal population from exploitation with an active involvement of the Gram Sabhas.
 - ✓ It gives special powers to the Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas especially for the management of natural resources in the forest areas
 - ✓ The Scheduled Areas are places that are mainly dominated by tribal communities, which are not covered by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment or Panchayati Raj Act.
 - ✓ PESA is an Act that seeks to provide the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas
 - ✓ Out of 10 PESA states, eight states - Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana - have notified their State PESA Rules under their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts, while Jharkhand and Odisha are yet to notify the Rules.
 - ✓ To commemorate 25th year of enactment of the PESA Act, 1996, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with Ministry of Tribal Affairs and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, had organized a one-day National Conference on 18th November, 2021 in New Delhi.
- **The historic Cuttack Baliyatra - has made it to the Guinness World Records after achieving a feat of making 22,000 paper boats in 35 minutes.**
- ✓ More than 2,100 students of 22 schools made the paper boats and created the world record at an event organised at Barabati Stadium by the district administration and Cuttack Municipal Corporation on November 15.

- ✓ The world record was attempted with an aim to attain global recognition for the nine-day Cuttack's Baliyatra, the largest open-air trade fair of the state



- ✓ The Guinness World Record was awarded for 'the most people folding origami sculptures simultaneously'.
 - ✓ The earlier record was of making 1,300 paper boats in 15 minutes in Gujarat
 - ✓ Baliyatra meaning "Voyage to Bali" is one of India's largest open-air fairs.
 - ✓ It commemorates the 2,000-year-old maritime and cultural links between the ancient Kalinga (present-day Odisha) and Bali and other South and Southeast Asian regions that include Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).
- **The 46th edition of Wangala Festival – was held at Wangala dam Chibragre near Tura in West Garo Hills district from November 10 to 12.**



- ✓ Also known as 100 drums festival, the Wangala Festival is Meghalaya's one of the most famous post harvest carnivals
- ✓ It was organised by the Hundred Drums Wangala Festival Committee with the participation of 10 ten dancing troops from all four corners of Garo Hills, one of the four regions of Meghalaya.

- ✓ The festival is a thanksgiving ceremony observed by the indigenous Garo tribes to seek blessings from the Sun God of fertility 'Misi Saljong' for bumper yields in the sowing season
- ✓ The festival is also held in the neighbouring tribal dominated areas of Bangladesh
- ✓ Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, opposition leader Mukul M. Sangma, Garo Hills Autonomous District Council chief executive member Albinush Marak have attended the festival on different days.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also announced during the festival that a sum of Rs. 2 Crore has been sanctioned to the Tourism department
 - ✓ The fund will be used in developing the necessary infrastructure and development of the Garo Heritage Village, the permanent site of the Wangala Festival
- ✓ The Garo are Tibeto-Burman ethnic tribe who mainly live in the Indian states of Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura, and Nagaland as well as in the nearby regions in Bangladesh

NATIONAL

- **On November 19, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi - inaugurated 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' - a month-long programme being organised in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**



- ✓ The objective of the programme is to celebrate, reaffirm and rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi – two of the country's most important and ancient seats of learning.
- ✓ The programme aims to provide an opportunity for people from all walks of life including scholars, students, philosophers, traders, artisans, artists etc. from the two regions to come together, share their knowledge, culture and best practices and learn from each others' experiences.



- ✓ Over 2500 delegates of 12 different categories in 8 different batches from Tamil Nadu will be visiting Kashi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj during the one-month-long programme
 - ✓ They will participate in seminars, site visits etc to interact with local people of similar trade, profession and interest.
- ✓ A month-long exhibition of handlooms, handicrafts, ODOP (One district, one product) products, books, documentaries, cuisine, art forms, history, tourist places etc of the two regions will also be put up in Kashi.
 - ✓ Along with this, an exhibition by the Central Bureau of Communication focusing on the Tamil Heroes of Indian Freedom Struggle will also be organised.
 - ✓ Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will be organising interactive sessions on different themes like Literature, Heritage, rural scenario, culture and identity among others.
- ✓ The inauguration ceremony witnessed various cultural performances such as vocal rendition by Ilaiyaraaja, and book releases.
- ✓ During the programme, the Prime Minister released a book 'Tirukkural' along with its translation into 13 languages and another book on Kashi-Tamil culture
- ✓ During the event, Prime Minister honoured nine prominent religious leaders of Tamil Nadu which include, Shrimad Manikkavachak Tambiran, Swami Shivkar Desikar, Srilashree Satya Gyan Mahadev Deshik Paramacharya Swamigal, Shiv Prakash Desik Satya Gyan Pandar Sannadi, Sri Sivagnan Balaya Swamigal, Gyanprakash Desikar, Shivalingeswar Swami Kandaswamy, Mayakrishnan Swamy and Muthu Sivaramaswamy.
- ✓ During his address, the PM highlighted Tamil Nadu's contribution to the development of Kashi and recalled that Tamil Nadu-born Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan was the Vice Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

- ✓ He also mentioned the Vedic scholar Rajeshwar Shastri who lived in Kashi even though he had his roots in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The PM further said that the people of Kashi also miss Pattaviram Shastri who lived on Hanuman Ghat in Kashi.
- ✓ The Prime Minister informed about the Kashi Kaam Koteswar Panchayatan Mandir which is a Tamilian temple on the banks of Harishchandra Ghat, and the two-hundred-year-old Kumarswamy Matt and Markande Ashram on Kedar Ghat
- ✓ He also mentioned the great poet and revolutionary, Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi who hailed from Tamil Nadu but lived in Kashi for many years.
- ✓ The Prime Minister reiterated the link between Tamil scholars and Kashi by mentioning personalities like Manonmaniyam Sundaranar who wrote a Tamil State song and the connection of his guru Kodaganallur Sundarar Swamikal with Kashi.
- ✓ Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Anandiben Patel, Union Ministers Dr L Murugan, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Member of Parliament, Ilaiyaraaja were those present on the occasion among others
- ✓ Kashi Tamil Sangamam will be held from November 16, 2022 till December 19, 2022 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Kashi Tamil Sangamam is an initiative under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahostav' and 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.'
- ✓ Kashi Tamil Sangamam has been started in order to align with the goals of National Education Policy, NEP 2020.
 - ✓ One of the recommendations under NEP 2020 was to integrate Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge
- ✓ In collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Government, the Ministry of Education will be organising this programme.
- ✓ Along with the Education Ministry, the ministries for culture, textiles, railways, tourism, food processing, information and broadcasting will also be taking part in Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2022.
- ✓ IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University are the two implementing agencies for the programme
- **India's national grid operator 'Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSOCO)' - has announced that it has changed its name to 'Grid Controller of India Ltd'.**
 - ✓ The name has been changed to reflect the critical role of grid operators in ensuring the sustainable operations of the Indian electricity grid
 - ✓ The Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India) operates the national load despatch centre (NLDC) and five regional load despatch centres (RLDCs).
 - ✓ The Grid-India is also designated as the nodal agency for major reforms in the power sector



- ✓ Set up in March 2009, the Grid-India is a wholly owned central government enterprise that comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Power.
- **The winter session of Parliament - will commence from December 7 and will continue until December 29**
 - ✓ This was announced by the Lok Sabha secretariat on November 19.
 - ✓ The session will comprise 17 sittings spread over 23 days.
 - ✓ The short session is expected to see the government move for the introduction and passage of the revised Digital Personal Data Protection Bill.
 - ✓ An earlier version of the Bill was withdrawn on August 3 after the joint committee of Parliament had recommended 81 changes and 12 “major recommendations” to it.
 - ✓ Before the start of the session, both Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha chairperson will call all-party meetings to build consensus for smooth functioning of the Houses.
- **The National Commission for Women (NCW) - launched the fourth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign recently on November 15.**



- ✓ The campaign aims at digitally empowering and upskilling women and girls.
- ✓ The Digital Shakti 4.0 is focused on making women digitally skilled and make them aware to stand-up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online.

- ✓ NCW launched the campaign in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation and Meta.
- ✓ The Digital Shakti initiative was started in June 2018 to help women raise the awareness level on the digital front and fight cyber-crime in the most effective ways.
- ✓ Through this project, over 3 lakh women across the country have been made aware of cyber safety tips and tricks, reporting & redressal mechanisms, data privacy and usage of technology for their benefits.
- ✓ The third phase of the program was started in March 2021
- ✓ During this phase, a resource centre was developed under the project to provide information on all modes of reporting in case a woman faces any cybercrime.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - has agreed in principle to admit East Timor as the group's 11th member**
 - ✓ The half-island nation, officially called Timor Leste, will also be granted observer status at high-level ASEAN meetings,
 - ✓ Going forward, next steps would include a “roadmap for full membership” to be submitted at next year's summit.
 - ✓ Indonesia takes over the ASEAN chair from Cambodia in 2023
 - ✓ The East Timorese voted for independence from a brutal occupation by neighbouring Indonesia in a 1999 U.N.-supervised referendum
 - ✓ The country was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2002 after 24 years of foreign occupation, making it Asia's youngest democracy
 - ✓ The resource-rich country of 1.3 million people immediately started the process of accession to ASEAN, but only formally applied for membership in 2011.
 - ✓ The former Portuguese colony is one of the poorest countries in the world and is crippled with high levels of inequality, malnourishment and unemployment.
 - ✓ ASEAN began as a five-member bloc in 1967 and has gradually expanded to 10-nation bloc, with Cambodia the most recent addition in 1999
 - ✓ Its member states are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- **Indonesia - has signed deals with major countries and international institutions to get \$20 billion funding to help the country increase its use of renewable energy and reduce its reliance on coal.**
 - ✓ The agreement was announced on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia recently on November 15
 - ✓ The new deal is called 'Just Energy Transition Partnership, or JETP'
 - ✓ It is meant to help developing countries reduce their reliance on fossil fuels such as coal and gas that cause carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

- ✓ The participating governments under the initiative includes the United States, Japan, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom
 - ✓ These countries have agreed to provide a total of about \$10 billion in concessionary lending, grants and equity, while the rest will be managed by the global financial institutions.
- ✓ As part of the agreement, Indonesia has pledged to ensure emissions from the country's power sector start falling by 2030 and become completely emissions-free by 2050.
- ✓ South Africa was the first country to sign a JETP deal, during last year's climate conference, COP26, in Glasgow.
 - ✓ Under the South Africa JETP, South Africa, France, Germany, the UK, the US and the EU committed to a long-term funding of \$8.5 billion for the energy transition
- ✓ Indonesia is the world's third-largest producer of coal and the average age of its coal power plants is only 12 or 13 years old, as such plants can remain operational for up to 45 years
- **On November 14, a new initiative called 'Global Shield against Climate Risks' – was unveiled at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) being held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.**
 - ✓ It was officially launched by the Vulnerable 20 Group of Finance Ministers (V20) of 58 climate vulnerable economies and the Group of Seven (G7) countries
 - ✓ The new initiative aims to provide pre-arranged financial support quickly in times of climate disasters
 - ✓ The initial contributions for the new scheme include around €170 million from Germany and more than €40 million from other countries like Denmark, Ireland, Canada and France.
 - ✓ The US, which is also part of this initiative, is providing funding for the African Risk Capacity – an insurance and disaster risk solutions company.
 - ✓ Other countries like the UK and the international organizations like the UNDP and the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction are also backing this initiative
 - ✓ The first recipients of Global Shield packages—called Pathfinder countries—include Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Senegal
 - ✓ This initiative will support countries in ensuring livelihood protection, social protection systems, livestock and crop insurance, property insurance, business interruption insurance, risk-sharing networks and credit guarantees
 - ✓ According to a research, V20 countries have lost a total of \$525 billion to climate impacts since 2000

DEFENCE

- **The joint military exercise 'Keen Sword 23' – was held between the US military and the Japan Self-Defence Force**



- ✓ The bilateral field training exercise was conducted from November 10 to 19, 2022
- ✓ This biennial exercise, held since 1986, aims to boost the preparedness and interoperability between the military personnel of Japan and the United States.
- ✓ The two-week-long exercise was held around Tokunoshima Island, situated southwest of Japan.
- ✓ It involved the participation of 26,000 personnel from JSDF and another 10,000 personnel from the US military.
- ✓ A total of 4 warships and 2 aeroplanes from Australia, Canada and Britain also participated in the military exercise.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Former bureaucrat Arun Goel - was appointed as Election Commissioner on November 19**



- ✓ Arun Goel, a 1985 batch IAS officer of the Punjab cadre, will join Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey in the poll panel.

- ✓ The post of third Election Commissioner remained vacant after the then Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar took the charge of Chief Election Commissioner in May this year, following the retirement of Sushil Chandra as CEC
- ✓ He was to retire on December 31, 2022 after completing 60 years of age.
- ✓ Goel would be in line to be the next chief election commissioner after incumbent Rajiv Kumar demits office in February 2025.
- ✓ Goel was, till recently, the heavy industries secretary and his voluntary retirement came into effect on November 18.
- ✓ Before being appointed as Heavy Industries Secretary in 2019, Goel was Secretary, Culture Ministry.
- ✓ He has also served as Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority.

AWARDS

- **Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong from Cameron – was conferred the 2022 edition of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence**



- ✓ The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize was established by UNESCO in 1995 to commemorate both the 125th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth and the United Nations Year for Tolerance.
- ✓ This award recognizes outstanding contributions made in the domains of science, the arts, culture, or communication that propagates tolerance and nonviolence.
- ✓ The International Day for Tolerance is observed annually on November 16 to promote awareness of the value of tolerance in society.
- ✓ The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize is conferred every two years by UNESCO.
- ✓ The \$1,00,000 award was funded by a donation from Madanjeet Singh – the former Indian artist, writer and diplomat who served as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.
- ✓ Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong, with 7-year experience as a journalist, founded two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – Afrogiveness Movement and Positive Youths Africa (PYA).
- ✓ They operate in nine African countries – Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, and Togo.

- ✓ Through these NGOs, Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong is promoting tolerance and non-violence by reintegrating survivors from opposing sides of war and conflicts into their host communities along with other supports.

SPORTS

- **Star paddler Manika Batra - created history by becoming the first Indian woman table tennis player to finish the Asian Cup TT tournament with a bronze medal at the Hua Mak Indoor Stadium in Bangkok on November 19.**



- ✓ In the bronze playoff, the unseeded Manika defeated world No. 6 Hina Hayata of Japan to achieve the feat.
- ✓ The world No. 44 Indian will also carry home a prize money of \$10,000 for her efforts.
- ✓ Earlier in the day, Manika lost to second seed Mima Ito of Japan in the semifinals.
- **Tamil Nadu opening batsman N Jagadeesan – equalled the List A record for most consecutive centuries on November 19**



- ✓ He smashed his fourth back-to-back century en route Tamil Nadu's 151-run win against Haryana in Vijay Hazare Trophy.
- ✓ The right-hander became only the fourth player in the world to achieve the feat.

- ✓ Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara, former South Africa batter Alviro Petersen and Karnataka lefthander Devdutt Padikkal are the only other players to have hit four tons on the trot in List-A cricket.
- ✓ With scores of 5, 114*, 107, 168 and 128, Jagadeesan has amassed 522 runs in five matches and is the highest run-getter of the tournament so far.
- **Eight 'Sportspersons Of Outstanding Merit' (SOM) – were named by the national Olympic committee's newly-formed athletes commission**
- ✓ They will have a vote each in the election to the executive council of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)
- ✓ The eight SOMs (four male and four female) were decided by the athletes commission's five-member sub-committee
 - ✓ The committee was headed by Gagan Narang and approved by retired Supreme Court judge Justice L Nageswara Rao



- ✓ The eight SOMs include MM Somaya (hockey), Yogeshwar Dutt (wrestling), Rohit Rajpal (tennis), Akhil Kumar (boxing), PT Usha (athletics), Suma Shirur (shooting), Aparna Popat (badminton) and Dola Banerjee (archery).
- ✓ The SOMs will be incorporated into the IOA's general assembly with voting rights and can contest for any of the office-bearers' post.
- ✓ More than 70 former sportspersons had applied for the eight SOM posts, who are required to be within 18-70 years of age.

STATE OF THE CLIMATE IN ASIA - REPORT

- **On November 14, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) – have released a new report titled 'State of the Climate in Asia 2021'**
- ✓ The report was presented at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.
- ✓ As per the report, at least 48.3 million people in Asia were affected by over 100 natural hazards, which claimed at least 3,803 lives in the year 2021
- ✓ The total economic damage due to the extreme weather events was estimated to be \$35.5 billion.



- ✓ These events included drought, extreme temperature, floods, glacial lake outburst, landslide, storm and wildfire.
- ✓ In Asia, floods have been the most impactful, causing the highest number of human deaths and economic damage, while drought affected the highest number of people in the region.
- ✓ Losses due to landslides increased 147%, compared to the 20-year average from 2001–2020, according to the report.
 - ✓ Further, losses from drought increased 63% and floods 23% during the same period
- ✓ Last year, China lost \$18.4 billion due to extreme weather conditions, the highest economic losses faced in Asia, followed by India's \$3.2 billion.
- ✓ In Asia, the highest adaptation cost is estimated for China at \$188.8 billion (every year), followed by India at \$46.3 billion, and Japan at \$26.3 billion
- ✓ As a percentage of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), the highest cost is estimated for Nepal at 1.9% of GDP, followed by Cambodia at 1.8%, and India at 1.3%.
- ✓ The year 2021 was slightly cooler for Asia than 2020 because of the prolonged La Nina, but it was still between the fifth and seventh warmest year on record.
- ✓ However, in China, Hong Kong and Bahrain, the year 2021 was the warmest on record, the report said.

FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

- **The 22nd edition of FIFA World Cup - will be played from November 20 to December 18 in Qatar.**



- ✓ This is the first time ever that the FIFA World Cup tournament will be hosted by the Arab world.
- ✓ Qatar is the first country in the Middle East, and second in Asia, after Japan and South Korea, to host the prestigious sporting event.
- ✓ Also, for the first time in its 92-year history, the tournament is taking place in November and December rather than in the middle of the year
- ✓ The FIFA World Cup in West Asia, the first 'Winter World Cup', will kick off with Qatar taking on Ecuador.
- ✓ The tournament will be played in a single city, Doha, for the first time
- ✓ The 32 participating teams of FIFA World Cup 2022 will be divided into 8 groups - Group A, Group B, Group C, Group D, Group E, Group F, Group G, and Group H.
- ✓ The tournament will be played in two phases - Group Phase and Knockout phase.
- ✓ The total number of matches that will be played in the FIFA World Cup 2022 is 64, which will be played across 8 stadiums
- ✓ The stadiums where the matches will be played are Al Bayt Stadium, Khalifa International Stadium, Al Thumama Stadium, Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, Lusail Stadium, Ras Abu Aboud Stadium, Education City Stadium, and Al Janoub Stadium
 - ✓ With 80,000 seats, Lusail Iconic Stadium is the largest stadium of the upcoming world cup.
 - ✓ The opening game will be played at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, while the final match takes place on December 18 at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail.
- ✓ This edition is also one of the most expensive World Cups as Qatar had to build all stadiums from scratch and created fully air-conditioned indoor stadiums at the cost of more than \$6.5 billion
- ✓ The total cost of hosting the World Cup is reportedly around \$220 billion -- the biggest amount spent by any of the organisers for the FIFA World Cup
 - ✓ In contrast, the 2014 edition in Brazil cost \$11.5 billion while the last edition in Russia in 2018 cost about \$14 billion.
- ✓ The Qatar World Cup will have female referees officiating at a men's World Cup for the first time.
 - ✓ Rwanda's Salima Mukansanga, Yamashita Yoshimi of Japan and Frenchwoman Stephanie Frappart along with three female assistant referees have been selected for the global showpiece event.
- ✓ The Qatar 2022 World Cup will introduce new rules and new technology, which includes the five substitution rule instead of three and the 'semi-automated offside technology'.
- ✓ The selection of Qatar as the host country of the 2022 World Cup was done in 2010

OPENING CEREMONY



Balich to conduct Olympics-style ceremony

This WC will be the first to feature an Olympics-style opening ceremony. Creative director **Marco Balich**, a veteran of multiple Olympic opening and closing ceremonies, said he has been working for a year on a 30-minute show that will run ahead of the opening game. "The supreme committee wanted to create a real show, which FIFA is not accustomed to," Balich said

Live: 7.30pm (IST)

THE FIRST MATCH

The opening match between Qatar and Ecuador will be played at Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor. The tournament was originally set to begin a day later with Senegal's game against the Netherlands at Al Thumama Stadium, but Qatar's match was moved forward to allow them to open their home tournament.

Qatar and Ecuador have met three times previously. Their head-to-head record is perfectly balanced with one win each and one draw (6 goals each)

Ecuador

Coach: Gustavo Alfaro

Players to watch: Enner Valencia, Moises Caicedo

History: Fourth appearance; Last appearance in 2014 (group stage)

Best finish: Round of 16 in 2006

Qatar

Coach: Felix Sanchez

Players to watch: Almoez Ali, Hassan Al-Haydos

History: First appearance

Live: 9.30 pm (IST)

1.5 m
Visitors

1300
Flights coming to Qatar on a daily basis

\$220b
Most expensive World Cup ever

160m €
Kylian Mbappe is the highest valued player

1260m €
England team ranks first in market value of all the teams qualified for the World Cup 2022

All World Cup winners: Brazil 5, Germany 4, Italy 4, France 2, Uruguay 2, Argentina 2, England 1 and Spain 1

Most compact WC: With an area of little more than 11,500sq km (4,440sq miles) and a population of around 2.9 million, Qatar will be the smallest country ever to host FIFA's flagship tournament. All eight stadiums are located within a 50km (31-mile) radius of the capital, Doha

THE FORMAT

The 2022 World Cup will begin with 32 teams in **eight groups of four**

A

Qatar
Ecuador
Senegal
Netherlands

B

England
Iran
USA
Wales

C

Argentina
Saudi Arabia
Mexico
Poland

D

France
Australia
Denmark
Tunisia

E

Spain
Costa Rica
Germany
Japan

F

Belgium
Canada
Morocco
Croatia

G

Brazil
Serbia
Switzerland
Cameroon

H

Portugal
Ghana
Uruguay
South Korea

YOUNGEST SQUADS AT THE CUP

COUNTRY	AVERAGE AGE
Ghana	24.7
USA	25
Spain	25.3
Ecuador	25.5
Morocco	25.9



YOUNGEST: YOUSOUFA MOUKOKO
18 YRS (GERMANY)

OLDEST SQUADS AT THE CUP

COUNTRY	AVERAGE AGE
Uruguay	27.7
Tunisia	27.8
Mexico	28.4
Iran	28.6
Belgium	28.9



OLDEST: ALFREDO TALAVERA
40 YRS, 2 MTHS, 2 DAYS (MEXICO)

MOST EXPERIENCED SQUADS AT THE CUP

COUNTRY	CAPS
Qatar	1390
Belgium	1336
Mexico	1329
Uruguay	1192
Costa Rica	1129

LEAST EXPERIENCED SQUADS AT THE CUP

COUNTRY	CAPS
Ecuador	617
Australia	588
Saudi Arabia	571
Morocco	503
Ghana	420

Times Insight Group

GROUP A

Teams | Netherlands, Senegal, Ecuador, Qatar

Netherlands: World Cup 2018: Did not qualify | **Best result:** Runner's up (1974, 1978, 2010)

Nickname: Oranje or The Dutch Elephants

Coach: Louis Van Gaal

Key player: Virgil van Dijk—Liverpool star is the fulcrum that holds the Dutch defence together.

Senegal: World Cup 2018: Exits at group stage | **Best result:** Quarterfinals (2002)

Nickname: The Lions of Teranga

Coach: Aliou Cisse

Key player: Edouard Mendy—The goalkeeper of the year in 2021 has to overcome his slump in form and display his brilliant shot-stopping ability to lift Senegal's spirits after injured Sadio Mane was ruled out of the tournament.

Ecuador: World Cup 2018: Did not qualify | **Best result:** Round of 16 (2006)

Nickname: La Tri or The Tricolors

Coach: Gustavo Alfaro

Key player: Moises Caicedo—If Ecuador hope to qualify from the group stage, the 21-year-old Brighton midfielder will have to be at his best.

Qatar: World Cup 2018: Did not qualify | **Best result:** Never qualified

Nickname: The Maroon

Coach: Felix Sanchez

Key player: Almoez Ali—Born in Sudan, Almoez Ali moved to Qatar as a child. He would be hoping to increase his all-time goal-scoring tally on his home turf.

DON'T MISS: NETHERLANDS VS SENEGAL, 21 NOV 9.30 PM

GROUP B

Teams | England, Iran, USA, Wales

England: World Cup 2018: Finished 4th | **Best result:** Winners (1966)

Coach: Gareth Southgate

Key player: Harry Kane—The winner of the Golden Boot in Russia four years ago will be keen to an encore and looks in excellent touch.

Nickname: The Three Lions

Iran: World Cup 2018: Exited at group stage | **Best result:** Group stage exit in on six occasions they have participated

Nickname: Team Melli, Shiran e Iran (The Lions of Persia)

Coach: Carlos Queiroz

Key player: Sardar Azmoun—Known as the Messi of Iran, Azmoun averages two goals in every three appearances for his national side.

USA: World Cup 2018: Did not qualify | **Best result:** Finished 3rd (1930)

Nickname: The Stars and Stripes, The Yanks

Coach: Gregg Berhalter

Key player: Christian Pulisic—Landon Donovan's successor, Pulisic will be keen to make an impact on his World Cup debut.

Wales: World Cup 2018: Did not qualify | **Best result:** Quarterfinals (1958)

Coach: Robert Page

Nickname: Y Dreigiau (The Dragons)

Key player: Gareth Bale—Playing in his first World Cup which also could be his last, Bale's pace and long-range shooting ability will be a threat to rivals.

DON'T MISS: ENGLAND VS WALES, 30 NOV 12.30 AM

GROUP C

Teams | Argentina, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Mexico

Argentina: World Cup 2018: Round of 16 | **Best result:** Champions (1978, 1986)

Nickname: La Albiceleste (Sky Blue & Whites)

Coach: Lionel Scaloni

Key player: Lionel Messi—At 35, it will be his last effort and he would be desperate to lay his hands on that elusive trophy.

Poland: World Cup 2018: Exits at group stage | **Best result:** Third (1974, 1982)

Nickname: Bialo-czerwoni (The White and Red), Only (The Eagles)

Coach: Czeslaw Michniewicz

Key player: Robert Lewandowski—Poland's chances of advancing depend solely on Lewi's goal-scoring prowess.

Saudi Arabia: World Cup 2018: Exits at group stage | **Best result:** Round of 16 (1994)

Nickname: The Green Falcons, The Arabian Falcons

Coach: Herve Renard

Key player: Salman al-Faraj—The left-footed midfielder orchestrates the team's attacks.

Mexico: World Cup 2018: Round of 16 | **Best result:** Quarterfinals (1970, 1986)

Nickname: El Tri (The Tricolor)

Coach: Gerardo Martino

Key player: Guillermo Ochoa—The veteran goalkeeper rises to the occasion.

DON'T MISS: ARGENTINA VS MEXICO, 27 NOV 12.30 AM

GROUP D

Teams | France, Denmark, Australia, Tunisia

France: World Cup 2018: Champions | **Best result:** Winners (1998, 2018)

Nickname: Les Bleus (The Blues)

Coach: Didier Deschamps

Key player: Kylian Mbappe—With his goal-scoring prowess, speed, acceleration and ability to make sudden changes of pace, he could light up the World Cup.

Denmark: World Cup 2018: Round of 16 | **Best result:** Quarterfinal (1998)

Nickname: De Rod-Hvide (The Red-White), Danish Dynamite

Coach: Kasper Hjulmand

Key player: Christian Eriksen—The playmaker will be keen to prove that he is still a threat despite playing with a defibrillator now.

Australia: World Cup 2018: Exits at Group stage | **Best result:** Round of 16 (2006)

Nickname: Socceroos

Coach: Graham Arnold

Key player: Awer Mabil—Born in a Kenyan refugee camp to Sudanese parents and survived on one meal a day as a child, he makes the squad.

Tunisia: World Cup 2018: Exits at Group Stage | **Best result:** Group stage exit in all five appearances

Nickname: The Eagles of Carthage

Coach: Jalel Kadri

Key player: Youssef Msakni—Adept at playing multiple roles, will be keen to leave a mark in Qatar.

DON'T MISS: FRANCE VS DENMARK, 26 NOV 9.30 PM

GROUP E

Teams | Spain, Germany, Costa Rica, Japan

Spain: World Cup 2018: Round of 16 | **Best result:** Champions (2016)

Coach: Luis Enrique

Nickname: La Furia Roja (The Red Fury)

Key player: Pedro—The 19-year-old has the opportunity to show why he is considered the heir apparent to Andres Iniesta.

Germany: World Cup 2018: Exits at group stage | **Best result:** Champions (1954, 1974, 1990, 2014)

Nickname: Die Mannschaft

Coach: Hansi Flick

Key player: Joshua Kimmich—The midfielder is an all-round package and his form will be vital to Germany's chances.

Costa Rica: World Cup 2018: Exits at group stage | **Best result:** 2014 (Quarterfinals)

Nickname: Los Ticos (The Ticos)

Coach: Luis Fernando Suarez

Key player: Keylor Navas—The 35-year-old goalkeeper is considered one of the world's best and will have to be at his best to keep his team in the hunt.

Japan: World Cup 2018: Round of 16 | **Best result:** Round of 16 (2002, 2010, 2018)

Nickname: Samurai Blue

Coach: Hajime Moriyasu

Key player: The Arsenal defender is the backbone of the Japanese defence.

DON'T MISS: SPAIN VS GERMANY, 28 NOV 12.30 AM

GROUP F

Teams | Belgium, Croatia, Morocco, Canada

Belgium: World Cup 2018: Finished third | **Best result:** Third (2018)

Nickname: Les Diables Rouges (The Red Devils)

Coach: Roberto Martinez

Key player: Kevin De Bruyne—His ability to pierce the defence with passes and speed in entering the opponent's box makes him dangerous.

Croatia: World Cup 2018: Runners-up | **Best result:** runner's up (2018)

Nickname: Vatreni (The Blazers) Kockasti (The Chekered Ones)

Coach: Zlatko Dalic

Key player: Luka Modric—The 37-year-old will be looking to step up for one last time as he hopes to sign off his international career in style.

Morocco: World Cup 2018: Exits at group stage | **Best result:** Round of 16 (1986)

Nickname: The Atlas Lions

Coach: Walid Regragui

Key player: Achraf Hakimi—The PSG full-back has won the Champions League, Serie A and Ligue 1 titles playing for different clubs in Europe and his experience will be crucial for Morocco.

Canada: World Cup 2018: Did not qualify | **Best result:** Group stage (1986)

Nickname: Le Rouges (The Reds), Maple

Coach: John Herdman

Key player: Alphonso Davies—Born in a Ghanaian refugee camp to Liberian parents, Alphonso plays as a left-back at Bayern Munich but will be seen orchestrating Canada's attacks.

DON'T MISS: BELGIUM VS CROATIA, DEC 1 8.30 PM

GROUP G

Teams | Brazil, Serbia, Switzerland, Cameroon

Brazil: World Cup 2018: Quarterfinals | **Best result:** Champions (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002)

Nickname: The Selecao

Coach: Tite

Key player: Neymar—For some time, Brazil was all about Neymar but now he has a talented support cast that could help the PSG star play more freely and see him dazzle in Qatar.

Serbia: World Cup 2018: Exits at group stage | **Best result:** 4th place (1930, 1962)

Nickname: The Eagles

Coach: Dragan Stokovic

Key player: Aleksandar Mitrovic—Despite fitness concerns, Serbia's all-time leading scorer Mitrovic's goal-scoring abilities will determine his team's performance.

Switzerland: World Cup 2018: Round of 16 | **Best result:** Quarterfinals (1934, 1938, 1954)

Nickname: Rossocrociati (The Red Crosses)

Coach: Murat Yakin

Key player: Granit Xhaka—He was at his best in the Nations League and his stupendous recent form for Arsenal means that Switzerland will have hopes pinned on him.

Cameroon: World Cup 2018: Did not qualify | **Best result:** 1990 (Quarterfinals)

Nickname: Indomitable Lions

Coach: Rigobert Song

Key player: Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting—If he can replicate his club form, then Cameroon have plenty to hope for.

DON'T MISS: BRAZIL VS SWITZERLAND, NOV 28 9.30 PM

GROUP H

Teams | Portugal, Uruguay, South Korea, Ghana

Portugal: World Cup 2018: Round of 16 | **Best result:** 3rd place (1966)

Nickname: A Selecao (The Selection) Os Navegadores (The Navigators)

Coach: Fernando Santos

Key player: Cristiano Ronaldo—Ronaldo has the experience to win games on his own in what will be his final World Cup.

Uruguay: World Cup 2018: Quarterfinals | **Best result:** Champions (1930 & 1950)

Nickname: La Celeste (The Sky Blue)

Coach: Diego Alonso

Key player: Luis Suarez—At 35, Suarez's sharpness in front of goal and will be main threat.

South Korea: World Cup 2018: Exits at Group stage | **Best result:** 4th place (2002)

Nickname: The Taegeuk Warriors.

Coach: Paulo Bento

Key player: Son Heung-min—South Korea's progress in Qatar will depend a lot on Son's form and fitness.

Ghana: World Cup 2018: Did not qualify | **Best result:** Quarterfinals (2010)

Nickname: The Black Stars

Coach: Otto Addo

Key player: Mohammed Kudus—His form for his club Ajax, where he has scored nine this season, augurs well for Ghana.

DON'T MISS: PORTUGAL VS URUGUAY, NOV 29 12.30 AM



**TWITTER'S
FOOTBALL
SUPERSTARS**
Followers in millions

Ronaldo

105

Neymar Jr

59

Gareth Bale

19

Karim Benzema

18

Luis Suarez

17



Four matches will be played each day during the group stage, which will run over a 12-day period and see winners and runners-up progress to the round of 16

FOR THE FIRST TIME

Air-conditioned stadiums: To tackle the heat, the organisers have installed air-conditioning in every stadium. Cool air will be pumped in through grills in the stands and nozzles on the pitch



Five substitutions: Teams will be allowed five substitutions in each game due to Covid pandemic, as opposed to three from the previous World Cup in Russia in 2018. If a World Cup game goes into extra time, one additional substitution will be allowed



Female referees: For the first time in World Cup history, female referees will officiate in the matches – Japan's Yoshimi Yamashita, Stephanie Frappart of France and Salima Mukansanga of Rwanda. They are in a pool of 36 referees listed for Qatar – the rest are all men. FIFA has also named three female assistant referees in a pool of 69



DID YOU KNOW?

➤ Because of World War II, the World Cup was not held between 1938 and 1950. As a result, Italy were the reigning World Cup champions for a record 16 years (they won in 1934 and 1938). Ironically, they have not qualified this time

➤ Six teams have been unbeaten but were not the champions in the same edition. The unbeaten teams: Scotland in 1974 (1 win, 2 draws), Brazil in 1978 (4 wins, 3 draws), England in 1982 (3 wins, 2 draws), Cameroon in 1982 (3 draws), Belgium in 1998 (3 draws) and New Zealand 2010 (3 draws)

➤ The first World Cup match kicked off

Netherlands goalkeeper **Andries Noppert** (203cm) is the tallest player called up for 2022 World Cup. The tallest outfield player is Australian defender Harry Souttar (198cm)

on July 13, 1930 with France beating Mexico 4-1

➤ Of all the countries that have appeared in the World Cup, Indonesia has played the least number of matches – just one in 1938

➤ The only man reportedly to have played both World Cup football and World Cup cricket is Viv Richards – for Antigua and Barbuda in football (in the qualifiers) and West Indies in cricket

➤ Only one athlete, Australia's Ellyse Perry, has appeared in the final rounds of both

women's cricket (2009) and football World Cups (2011)

➤ Bora Milutinovic coached in every tournament between 1986 and 2002, but different teams: Mexico, Costa Rica, USA, Nigeria and China

➤ The highest attendance at a World Cup match was 199,854 at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro for the 1950 decider between Uruguay and Brazil

➤ Two World Cup finals have been decided on penalties. Brazil beat Italy in 1994, and Italy beat France in 2006

➤ The 2026 World Cup will see the tournament expanded from 32 to 48 teams



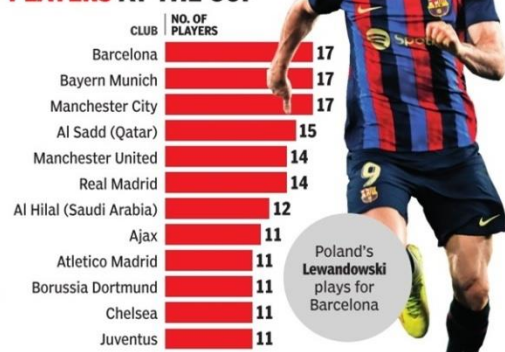
By comparison, the smallest player at the World Cup is Morocco's **Ilias Chair** (158cm) – a whopping 45 cm shorter than Noppert

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

WHERE MOST WORLD CUPPERS PLAY THEIR CLUB FOOTBALL



CLUBS WITH MOST PLAYERS AT THE CUP





FIFA World Cup 2022 match schedule

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D	GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
 Qatar Ecuador Senegal Netherlands	 England Iran USA Wales	 Argentina Saudi Arabia Mexico Poland	 France Australia Denmark Tunisia	 Spain Costa Rica Germany Japan	 Belgium Canada Morocco Croatia	 Brazil Serbia Switzerland Cameroon	 Portugal Ghana Uruguay South Korea

Group stage

All dates: November / December

All kick-off times local AST (GMT+3)

21	Qatar - Ecuador*	Nov 20	Senegal - Netherlands	19:00	England - Iran	16:00	USA - Wales	22:00
22	Mexico - Poland	19:00	Argentina - S. Arabia	13:00	France - Australia	22:00	Denmark - Tunisia	16:00
23	Spain - Costa Rica	19:00	Germany - Japan	16:00	Belgium - Canada	22:00	Morocco - Croatia	13:00
24	Switz. - Cameroon	13:00	Brazil - Serbia	22:00	Uruguay - S. Korea	16:00	Portugal - Ghana	19:00
25	Qatar - Senegal	16:00	Netherlands - Ecuador	19:00	Wales - Iran	13:00	England - USA	22:00
26	Poland - S. Arabia	16:00	Argentina - Mexico	22:00	Tunisia - Australia	13:00	France - Denmark	19:00
27	Japan - Costa Rica	13:00	Spain - Germany	22:00	Belgium - Morocco	16:00	Croatia - Canada	19:00
28	Cameroon - Serbia	13:00	Brazil - Switzerland	19:00	S. Korea - Ghana	16:00	Portugal - Uruguay	22:00
29	Ecuador - Senegal	18:00	Netherlands - Qatar	16:00	Wales - England	22:00	Iran - USA	22:00
30	Poland - Argentina	22:00	S. Arabia - Mexico	22:00	Australia - Denmark	18:00	Tunisia - France	18:00
1	Japan - Spain	22:00	C. Rica - Germany	22:00	Croatia - Belgium	18:00	Canada - Morocco	18:00
2	Serbia - Switzerland	22:00	Cameroon - Brazil	22:00	Ghana - Uruguay	18:00	S. Korea - Portugal	18:00

Knockout stages

*Opening game brought forward one day. Kick-off: 19:00

FIFA World Cup
Countdown
clock in
Doha



Source: FIFA

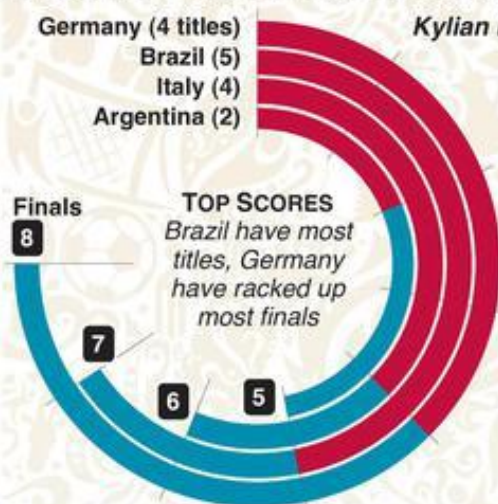
Picture: Getty Images

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FIFA World Cup winners

Eight separate nations have lifted the World Cup since it began in 1930, all from the football powerhouses of Europe and South America



Kylian Mbappe
France



	▼ Winner		▼ Runner-up	
1930	Uruguay	4-2	Argentina	Host: Uruguay
1934	Italy	2-1*	Czechoslovakia	Italy
1938	Italy	4-2	Hungary	France
1950	Uruguay	2-1	Brazil	Brazil
1954	W. Germany	3-2	Hungary	Switzerland
1958	Brazil	5-2	Sweden	Sweden
1962	Brazil	3-1	Czechoslovakia	Chile
1966	England	4-2*	West Germany	England
1970	Brazil	4-1	Italy	Mexico
1974	West Germany	2-1	Netherlands	West Germany
1978	Argentina	3-1*	Netherlands	Argentina
1982	Italy	3-1	West Germany	Spain
1986	Argentina	3-2	West Germany	Mexico
1990	West Germany	1-0	Argentina	Italy
1994	Brazil	0-0 (penalties 3-2)	Italy	United States
1998	France	3-0	Brazil	France
2002	Brazil	2-0	Germany	South Korea/Japan
2006	Italy	1-1 (penalties 5-3)	France	Germany
2010	Spain	1-0*	Netherlands	South Africa
2014	Germany	1-0*	Argentina	Brazil
2018	France	4-2	Croatia	Russia

Source: FIFA

*After extra time

Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS