

MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA
UNIT – IV – CURRENT AFFAIRS
GAMES

1. COMMONWEALTH 2022

The Commonwealth Games, more often than not known as the Friendly Games, are an international multisport competition held every four years for athletes belonging to the Commonwealth of Nations. Since its debut in 1930, the games have been conducted every four years with the exception of 1942 and 1946 (both of which were postponed owing to World War II). From 1930 to 1950, the events were known as the British Empire Games, from 1954 to 1966 as the British Empire and Commonwealth Games, and from 1970 to 1974 as the British Commonwealth Games. Since 2002, athletes with disabilities have been accepted as full members of their country teams, making the Commonwealth Games the first international multisport competition to be completely inclusive.

Latest Updates on Commonwealth Games:

1. The 22nd Commonwealth Games, which just concluded, took place in Birmingham from July 28 through August 8, 2022. When the 2026 Commonwealth Games are held in four locations throughout the Australian state of Victoria from March 17 to March 29, they will be the first decentralised Commonwealth Games ever held.
2. Gabon and Togo are anticipated to send a team to the 2026 Commonwealth Games for the first time, as the two nations were admitted to the Commonwealth of Nations in June 2022 and did not have time to organise their organisations for the 2022 Games, which were slated for the end of July.
3. In total, India has won 22 gold, 16 silver, and 23 bronze medals in Birmingham CWG 2022.
4. The parasports medals section and the overall medal standings for each nation were combined for the first time in CWG history.
5. Commonwealth Games 2022 was the first carbon-neutral international multisport event.

About Commonwealth Games:

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), which oversees the Games and chooses the host cities, manages the sporting programme. International sports federations (IFs), Commonwealth Games Associations (CGAs), and organising bodies for each individual Commonwealth Games make up the movement of the

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game. A few customs are specific to the Games, including raising the Commonwealth Games flag, the Queen's Baton Relay, and the opening and closing ceremonies. Typically, gold, silver, and bronze medals are given to the winners of the first, second, and third places in each event. Despite the Commonwealth of Nations has 56 members, there are 72 Commonwealth Games Associations.

Each of its six regions – Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Oceania—performs a comparable role to that of the National Olympic Committees in relation to their respective nations or territories. The CGA duties are carried out by their NOCs in other countries, such as South Africa and India. One of the ways the Commonwealth Games differ from other multisport competitions is that the 15 CGAs taking part do not send delegations separately from the Olympic, Paralympic, and other multisport events. This is because 13 of the CGAs are affiliated with the British Olympic Association, one is affiliated with the Australian Olympic Committee, and another is affiliated with the New Zealand Olympic Committee, just like their Paralympic counterparts.

Commonwealth Winter Games:

The Commonwealth Winter Games were a multi-sport event that featured winter sports and were last hosted in 1966. The Games have been held three times. To supplement the Winter Olympics and Summer Olympic Games, the Winter Games were created as a counterpoint to the Commonwealth Games, which focus on summer sports. T.D. Richardson founded the Winter Games. The 1958 Commonwealth Winter Games took place in St. Moritz, Switzerland, and were the first winter games. The 1962 Games were hosted in St. Moritz to supplement the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth, Australia, and the 1966 event was also held in St. Moritz before the idea was dropped.

Commonwealth Youth Games:

The Commonwealth Youth Games are a multi-sport international tournament organised by the Commonwealth Games Federation. The current Commonwealth Games format sees the Games held every four years. In 1997, the Commonwealth Games Federation examined the possibility of holding the Millennium Commonwealth Youth Games. The concept was agreed upon in 1998 with the goal of offering a Commonwealth multi-sport tournament for young people born in 1986 or later. The inaugural version was held from August 10 to 14, 2000 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Athletes must be between the ages of 14 and 18.

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History of Commonwealth Games:

John Astley Cooper proposed a sporting competition bringing together members of the British Empire in 1891, writing letters and articles for several periodicals proposing a “Pan Brittanic, Pan Anglican Contest once every four years as a way of increasing goodwill and acceptance of the British Empire”. An Inter-Empire Championship was hosted during the Festival of Empire in 1911 at The Crystal Palace in London to commemorate George V’s coronation and was championed by The Earl of Plymouth as well as Lord Desborough. Teams representing Australia and New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, as well as the United Kingdom contested athletics, boxing, swimming, and wrestling events. Canada was awarded a silver cup for winning the championships. Melville Marks Robinson, who participated in the 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam as the Canadian track and field team manager, fought hard for the plan to hold the first British Empire Games in Hamilton in 1930.

Commonwealth Games Federation:

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) an international organisation, is in charge of overseeing and directing the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games and is the ultimate authority on all matters pertaining to the games. CGF’s headquarters are located at Commonwealth House in London, England. The Commonwealth House also houses the Royal Commonwealth Society as well as the Commonwealth Local Government Forum’s headquarters.

According to the International Olympic Committee, the Commonwealth Games Movement consists of three primary components:

1. International Federations (IFs) are the governing bodies that oversee a sport on a global scale. The International Basketball Federation (FIBA), for example, is the sport’s international governing body.
2. Commonwealth Games Associations (CGAs) administer and regulate the Commonwealth Games Movement within their respective countries, analogous to National Olympic Committees. The Commonwealth Games England (CGE), for example, is England’s CGA. The CGF has currently recognised 72 CGAs.

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3. The Commonwealth Games Organising Groups (OCCWGs) are transitory committees in charge of organising each Commonwealth Games. After each game, OCCWGs are disbanded once the final report is given to the CGF.

The Commonwealth's official language is English. The language of the host country is also utilised at each Commonwealth Games (or languages, if a nation has more than one official language other than English). Every proclamation (for example, the announcement of each country during the parade of nations during the opening ceremony) is made in one of these two (or more) languages. If the host country does this, the language(s) and order must be chosen by them.

Queen's Baton Relay:

The Queen's Baton Relay is a global relay staged prior to the start of the Commonwealth Games. The Baton contains a message from the Commonwealth's Head of State, presently Queen Elizabeth II. The Relay commences at Buckingham Palace in London as part of the city's Commonwealth Day celebrations. The Queen hands the baton over to the first relay runner. The final relay runner delivers the baton back to the Queen or her representative at the Games' Opening Ceremony, who reads the letter publicly to officially start the Games. The Olympic Torch Relay is analogous to the Queen's Baton Relay.

The Relay was first conducted at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, Wales in the year 1958. Prior to and throughout the 1994 Games, the Relay only passed through England and the host country. The Relay for the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, became the first to travel to other Commonwealth countries. The Sunshine Coast the Queen's Baton Relay at the 2018 Commonwealth Games was the longest in the history of the game. The Baton travelled across the six Commonwealth regions of Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Oceania, covering 230,000 kilometres (150,000 miles) in 388 days. The Queen's Baton was presented for the first time at the Commonwealth Youth Games during its sixth edition in Nassau, Bahamas, in 2017.

Commonwealth Games Ceremonies:

Opening Ceremony:

The Commonwealth Games opening ceremony is framed by a variety of features. This ritual occurs before the events take place. The event usually begins with the raising of the host country's flag and the singing of its national anthem. During the opening ceremony, the Commonwealth Games Federation banner, the flag of

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the previous hosting nation, and the flag of the next hosting nation are all displayed. The host country then performs culturally relevant musical, singing, dance, and theatrical performances. As each host attempts to give a ceremony that outlasts its predecessor in terms of memorability, the artistic presentations have expanded in scale and sophistication. The opening ceremony of the Delhi Games reportedly cost \$70 million, with the majority of the money spent on creative elements.

Closing Ceremony:

The Commonwealth Games' closing ceremony is held after all athletic events have ended. Flag bearers from every participating nation enter the stadium, followed by athletes who enter without regard for nationality. The Games are formally closed after the presidents of the organising committee and the CGF deliver their final remarks. The CGF president also discusses the game's organisation. The mayor of the city that hosted the Games hands over the Commonwealth Games flag to the president of the CGF, who then passes it on to the mayor of the city that will host the next Commonwealth Games. The next host country then briefly introduces itself with artistic demonstrations of dance and theatre from its culture.

Medal Presentation:

Following the conclusion of each event, a medal ceremony is held. The first, second, and third-place athletes or teams are awarded their medals from a three-tiered rostrum. Following the presentation of the medals by a CGF member, the national flags of the three medalists are raised while the gold medalist's country's national anthem plays. Volunteers from the host country also serve as hosts during the medal ceremonies, assisting officials who give the medals and serving as flag bearers.

2. CHESS OLYMPIAD 2022 (44TH CHESS OLYMPIAD)

- Recently, the Prime Minister declared the 44th Chess Olympiad at JLN Indoor Stadium, Chennai.

About 44th Chess Olympiad:

1. This is the first time the Chess Olympiad is being held in the place of origin of chess, India.
2. It is coming to Asia for the first time in 3 decades.
3. It has the highest ever number of countries participating.
4. It has the highest ever number of teams participating.

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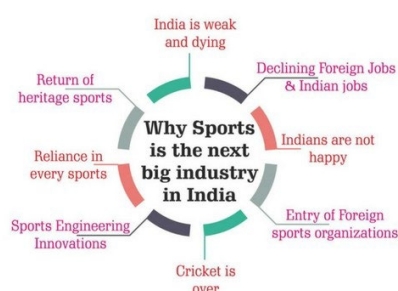
5. It has the highest number of entries in the women's section.
6. The first ever Torch Relay of the Chess Olympiad started this time.
7. Tamil Nadu has a strong historical connection with chess.
8. This is why it is a chess powerhouse for India.
9. It has produced many of India's chess grandmasters.
10. It is home to the finest minds, vibrant culture and the oldest language in the world, Tamil.

Sports Sector in India:



1. It comprises media rights, apparel, sports nutrition, sports equipment etc as an industry is likely to go up five times to reach a value of \$100 billion by 2027 from \$27 billion in 2020.
2. The Indian sports media market size was \$1 billion in 2020 and is estimated to grow over \$13.4 bn by 2027.
3. The global media rights market is \$52.1 bn where market share of cricket grew from 2.7% to 3.0%.
4. Football continues to hold the pole position at 42%.
5. India is one of the largest manufacturers of sports goods and equipment in Asia after China & Japan and that the sports goods market was worth \$4.5 billion in 2020 and is estimated to grow to \$6.6 billion by 2027.
6. The Indian sports apparel market was worth \$14 billion in 2020 and is estimated to grow to \$21 billion by 2023, largely growing on the back of menswear products.

The Importance of Sports:



Sports and academic life:

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Sports, education, and health share an elemental link, and together they contribute significantly to the holistic development of a child.

The changing dynamics of sports culture in India:

1. A good sports culture is an index to measure a nation's growth and progress.
2. The medals and trophies earned by players at globally recognized sporting events bring glory and honour to the country.

Opportunities in sports:

1. There is a broad spectrum of professional opportunities that sports as an industry offer.
2. In addition to a sportsperson, one can become a trainer, sports coach, athletic director, marketing and promotion coordinator, PR, physical therapist, sports and fitness nutritionist, sports journalist, sports announcer, sports agent, umpire, referee, sports photographer, a sports lawyer, etc.

The role of the Indian Government:

1. The Indian Government recognized the importance of sports and formed the National Sports Policy in 1984, aiming to make sports and physical education an essential part of the academic curriculum.
2. The revised National Sports Policy, 2011, advocates the importance of sports and physical education in developing better individuals, enhancing productivity, and bringing social harmony.

The role of a school:

1. A child needs to engage in sports as it offers holistic development and positive personality traits.
2. A school is a place that helps children discover their interests, inclination, and strengths.

Employability level:

Some of the research also suggests that being involved in sports may raise the employability level of young people by developing specific 'core' and 'soft' skills.

Challenges:

Lack of motivation:

The government has made sports and physical education mandatory in the curriculum but it lacks the required motivation and drive from the administrators.

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Superstitious beliefs:

1. A sport is never a priority for a majority of Indian parents and their kids.
2. Most Indians share the belief that "If you study hard you will be successful but if you play sports you will ruin your life."

Poverty:

1. Poverty is widespread in India and because of this menace; such a massive population cannot produce good sportspersons.
2. It is very difficult for many Indian families to provide the means to their children to pursue a career in sports.
3. Consequently, a lot of latent talent goes undiscovered or inadequately nurtured to compete at the level of the Olympics.

Poor Infrastructure:

1. Lack of facilities at the grass root level is a major problem.
2. Schools and colleges lack the basic infrastructure that can encourage other sports, so even if someone has a natural talent in a particular sport, it gets crushed at the school level itself.

Lack of recognition of sports other than cricket:

1. Cricket continues to dominate India's sporting landscape.
2. Sports other than cricket are not given much weightage as a career option, because neither they appear neither financially lucrative nor glamorous.

Corruption:

1. Corruption plagues all major Indian sports, including cricket, hockey, weightlifting, and athletics.
2. The governing boards of the sports federations are under the control of politicians and bureaucrats who have little or no interest and knowledge of the specific requirements and anticipated problems in that sport.

Government initiatives in the sports sector:

Fit India Movement:

Fit India Movement is a nationwide movement in India to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including physical activities and sports in their daily lives.

Khelo India Scheme:

1. The Khelo India Scheme has initiated in 2016 post the fusion of three earlier schemes – Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports

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Infrastructure Scheme (USIS), and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS).

2. This scheme was focused on increasing mass participation of youth in annual sports games and competitions.

Sports Talent Search Portal:

1. The portal allows youngsters to upload their achievements.
2. Those who get shortlisted are then called for trials and the qualified candidates then take part in the schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Empowered Steering Committee on Sports:

The Committee is answerable for preparing a far-reaching action plan for the powerful participation of Indian players in the Olympic Games of 2021 (Tokyo), 2024 (Paris), and 2028 (Los Angeles).

National Sports Awards Scheme:

The Government acknowledges and respects sports personalities with the Arjuna Awards, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Dhyan Chand Awards, and Dronacharya Awards for their achievements and commitments as sportspersons and coaches in the field of sports.

Sports and Games for Persons with Disabilities Scheme:

The differently-abled sportspersons are trained in their field for conducting sports competitions and assisting schools and institutes having differently-abled sportspersons.

Target Olympic Podium Scheme:

1. It is under the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) to help the potential medal possibilities for the Olympic Games of 2016 and 2020.
2. The main centre is given to Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Archery, Wrestling, and Shooting sports.

Way forward/ Suggestions:

Run:

It ought to be mandatory for every single person in the country to run or jog or walk for fifteen minutes at least every single morning.

Utilise schools:

The best way to develop sports at the grassroots level is to integrate it as a goal for schools to pursue.

Broadcast more sports:

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1. A lot of kids pick up sports because of what they watch on TV.
2. Increased coverage of sports on TV also makes way for companies to invest in advertisement slots, which promotes the market for the sport.

Get corporates in on the action:

Private sector is all about monetizing things. They can take sports to the next level because their focus is long-term, not just what they can make today.

Infrastructure:

Increase the number of facilities which people can use for pursuing sports and increase the accessibility and quality of the existing infrastructure.

Tie-ups with foreign bodies who have a vested interest in developing the sport

1. The NBA has tied up with Mahindra, IMG Reliance and the Basketball Federation of India to develop basketball in India.
2. They provide technical expertise and other support to conduct various activities at the grassroots level and above to improve the standard of the game here and to spread the love of the game.

Structured competition:

1. People need to compete in well-organised competitions which have a sustainable structure.
2. A simple one-shot tournament is not completely ineffective, but having well-organised competitions over a long period of time will allow for better development and talent spotting.

3. TOKYO OLYMPICS

Olympics 2020 was scheduled to be held in Tokyo from 24th July 2020 to 9th August 2020. Tokyo Olympics was, however, postponed and rescheduled for 2021 due to concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brief Overview of Tokyo Olympics

The Tokyo Olympics 2020, which was delayed due to pandemic concerns, had its opening ceremony on 23rd July 2021 at the Tokyo's National Stadium. World leaders from 15 nations attended this ceremony. Tokyo is the first Asian city to host the Summer Olympics more than once.

The Tokyo Olympics 2020 retained its original name despite its year-long delay. More than 11,000 athletes from 206 countries participated in 339 events across 33 sports.

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Sports like 3×3 basketball, Madison cycling, freestyle BMX, karate, surfing, sports climbing, and skateboarding made their Olympics debut. Moreover, softball and baseball have made a comeback to the Olympics since 2008.

Mascot and Motto

The Tokyo Olympics 2020 mascot is Miraitowa which is derived from the Japanese words Mirai meaning 'Future' and Towa meaning 'Eternity'. The mascot is an embodiment of both the old and the new, and echoes the concept of 'innovation from harmony'. Ryo Taniguchi is the creator of the Tokyo Olympics 2020 mascot.

The Olympic motto of 'Faster, Higher, and Stronger' was modified to 'Faster, Higher, and Stronger- Together'. This change in the motto was aimed to show solidarity at a time when the entire world suffered under the grip of COVID-19. The new motto in the Latin version would be 'Citius, Altius, Fortius, and Communiter.'

List of Venues for Olympics Games Tokyo 2020

The Tokyo Olympics 2020 venues include the following:

1. Tokyo's National Stadium: Football and Athletics
2. Yoyogi National Stadium
3. Nippon Budokan
4. Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium
5. Kokugikan Arena
6. Tokyo Stadium
7. Ariake Arena
8. Odaiba Marine Park
9. Tokyo International Forum
10. Equestrian Park
11. Musashina Forest Sport Plaza
12. Musashinonomori Park
13. Ariake Gymnastics Centre
14. Ariake Urban Sports Park
15. Shiokaze Park
16. Makuhari Messe Hall
17. Sea Forest Waterway
18. Sea Forest Cross Country Course
19. Tsurigasaki Surfing Beach
20. Yumenoshima Park Archery Field

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21. Aomi Urban Sports Park
22. Kasai Canoe Slalom Centre
23. Tokyo Aquatics Centre
24. Kasumigaseki Country Club
25. Tatsumi Water Polo Centre
26. Saitama Super Arena
27. Asaka Shooting Range
28. Fukushima Azuma Baseball Stadium
29. Sapporo Odori Park
30. Fuji International Speedway
31. Izu Velodrome
32. Izu MTB Course
33. Kasumigaseki Country Club
34. Enoshima Yatch Harbour
35. Miyagi Stadium
36. International Stadium Yokohama
37. Sapporo Dome
38. Saitama Stadium
39. Yokohama Baseball Stadium
40. Ibaraki Kashima Stadium

Aspirants can read about the International Olympic Committee, an important non-governmental organization that looks after the administration of the Olympic Games held all over the world.

Tokyo Olympics 2021 Schedule for Indian Athletes:

The following table shows India's schedule for Tokyo Olympics 2021 athletics games:

Date	Athletes	Event	Start Time in IST
30th July	Avinash Jable	Steeplechase Heats Men 3000m	From 5:30 am
	MP Jabir	Men's 400m Hurdles First Round	From 7:25 am

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	Dutee Chand	Women's 100m First Round	From 8:10 am
	Sarthak Bhambri, Revathi Veeramani, Alex Anthony, Subha Venkatesan	Mixed 4x400m Relay First Round	From 4:30 pm
31st July	Seema Punia, Kamalpreet Kaur	Women's Discus Throw Qualification	6:00 am
	M Sreeshankar	Men's Long Jump Qualification	3:40 pm
	Alex Antony, Revathi Veeramani, Subha Venkatesan, Sarthak Bhambri	Mixed 4x400m Relay Final	6:05 pm
	Dutee Chand	Women's Semi- final and Final	6:20 pm
2nd August	M Sreeshankar	Men's Long Jump Final	7:20 am
	Dutee Chand	Women's 200m First Round	7:30 am
	Kamalpreet Kaur, Seema Punia	Women's Discus Throw Final	5:30 pm
	Avinash Sable	Men's 3000m Steeplechase Final	5:45 pm
3rd August	Annu Rani	Women's Javelin Throw Qualification	From 5:50 am
	MB Jabir	Men's 400m Hurdles Final	8:50 am
	Tajinder Singh Toor	Men's Shot Put Qualification	3:45 pm
	Dutee Chand	Women's 200m Final	6:20 pm

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4th August	Shivpal Singh, Neeraj Chopra	Men's Javelin Throw Qualification	5:35 am
5th August	Sandeep Kuma, KT Irfan	Men's 20 km Race Walk Final	1:00 pm
6th August	Gurpreet Singh	Men's 50 km Race Walk Final	2:00 am
	Priyanka, Bhawna Jat	Women's 20 km Race Walk Final	1:00 pm
	Amoj Jacob, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Noah Nirmal Tom, P Naganathan	Men's 4x400m Relay First Round	4:55 pm
	Annu Rani	Women's Javelin Throw Final	5:20 pm
7th August	Neeraj Chopra, Shivpal Singh	Men's Javelin Throw Final	4:30 pm
	Amoj Jacob, P Naganathan, Noah Nirmal Tom, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed Anas Yahiya	Men's 4x400 m Relay Final	6:20 pm

Medal Tally for India in Tokyo Olympics 2020

The United States clinched the first position in terms of gold medals (39) and the total medal count (113). China stood at second spot with a total of 88 medals and 38 golds, while the host nation Japan got 27 gold medals and 58 total medals. Great Britain holds the fourth position.

India secured 7 medals in the Tokyo Olympics: two silvers, one gold and four bronze.

Athletes	Game	Medal
Neeraj Chopra	Javelin Throw	Gold
Ravi Dahiya	Wrestling (57 Kgs)	Silver

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Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting for Women (49 Kgs)	Silver
PV Sindhu	Women's Single Badminton	Bronze
Indian Hockey Team	Hockey	Bronze
Women's Welterweight Boxing	Lovlina Borgohain	Bronze
Bajrang Punia	Wrestling (65 Kgs)	Bronze

Aditi Ashok did not clinch a medal, but she finished off at 4th in Golf.

4. FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

The 2022 FIFA World Cup was an international football tournament contested by the men's national teams of FIFA's member associations and 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup. It took place in Qatar from 20 November to 18 December 2022, making it the first World Cup held in the Arab world and Muslim world, and the second held entirely in Asia after the 2002 tournament in South Korea and Japan.

This tournament was the last with 32 participating teams, with the number of teams being increased to 48 for the 2026 edition. To avoid the extremes of Qatar's hot climate, the event was held during November and December. It was held over a reduced time frame of 29 days with 64 matches played in eight venues across five cities. Qatar entered the event—their first World Cup—automatically as the host's national team, alongside 31 teams determined by the qualification process. Argentina were crowned the champions after winning the final against the title holder France 4–2 on penalties following a 3–3 draw after extra time. It was Argentina's third title and their first since 1986, as well being the first nation from South America to win the tournament since 2002. French player Kylian Mbappé became the first player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final since Geoff Hurst in the 1966 final and won the Golden Boot as he scored the most goals (eight) during the tournament. Argentine captain Lionel Messi was voted the tournament's best player, winning the Golden Ball. Teammates Emiliano Martínez and Enzo Fernández won the Golden Glove, awarded to the tournament's best goalkeeper, and the Young Player Award, awarded to the tournament's best young player, respectively. The tournament, with 172 goals, set a new record for the highest number of goals scored with the 32 team format.

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The choice to host the World Cup in Qatar attracted significant criticism, with concerns raised over the country's treatment of migrant workers, women and members of the LGBT community, as well as Qatar's climate, lack of a strong football culture, scheduling changes, and allegations of bribery for hosting rights and wider FIFA corruption.

Prize money

In April 2022, FIFA announced the prizes for all participating nations. Each qualified team received \$1.5 million before the competition to cover preparation costs with each team receiving at least \$9 million in prize money. This edition's total prize pool was \$440 million, \$40 million greater than the prize pool of the previous tournament.

Host selection criticism

There have been allegations of bribery and corruption in the selection process involving FIFA's executive committee members. These allegations are being investigated by FIFA (see § Bidding corruption allegations, 2014, below). In May 2011, allegations of corruption within the FIFA senior officials raised questions over the legitimacy of the World Cup 2022 being held in Qatar. The accusations of corruption were made relating to how Qatar won the right to host the event. A FIFA internal investigation and report cleared Qatar of any violation, but chief investigator Michael J. Garcia described FIFA's report on his enquiry as containing "numerous materially incomplete and erroneous representations."

In May 2015, Swiss federal prosecutors opened an investigation into corruption and money laundering related to the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids. In August 2018, former FIFA president Sepp Blatter claimed that Qatar had used "black ops", suggesting that the bid committee had cheated to win the hosting rights. Some investigations found that Qatar sought an edge in securing hosting by hiring a former CIA officer turned private contractor, Kevin Chalker, to spy on rival bid teams and key football officials who picked the winner in 2010.

In September 2018, a delegation from al-Ghufran tribe lodged a complaint to FIFA's president to reject the establishment of the World Cup in Qatar unless its government restored the Qatari nationality to all those affected from the tribe and returned land allegedly stolen from them to build the sport facilities.

Qatar faced strong criticism for the treatment of foreign workers involved in preparation for the World Cup, with Amnesty International referring to "forced labour" and poor working conditions,[58][59] while many migrant workers reported having to pay large "recruitment fees" to obtain employment. The

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Guardian newspaper reported that many workers were denied food and water, had their identity papers taken away from them, and that they were not paid on time or at all, making some of them in effect slaves. The Guardian estimated that up to 4,000 workers could die from lax safety and other causes by the time the competition was held. Between 2015 and 2021, the Qatari government adopted new labour reforms to improve working conditions, including a minimum wage for all workers and the removal of the kafala system. According to Amnesty International, however, living and working conditions of the foreign workers did not improve in the last years.

Qatar was the smallest nation by area ever to have been awarded a FIFA World Cup – the next smallest by area was Switzerland, host of the 1954 World Cup, which was more than three times as large as Qatar and only needed to host 16 teams instead of 32. Qatar also became only the second country (not including Uruguay and Italy, hosts of the first two World Cups) to be awarded a FIFA World Cup despite having never qualified for a previous edition: Japan was awarded co-hosting rights of the 2002 World Cup in 1996 without ever having qualified for the finals, although they qualified for the 1998 edition. Of the eight stadiums used in the tournament, six were located in the Doha metropolitan area, making it the first World Cup since 1930 in which most of the stadiums were in one city. While this decreased the distance that fans and players needed to commute, Qatar itself struggled to accommodate the numbers of arriving fans with its diminutive amount of space.

Due to Qatar's laws on alcohol consumption, World Cup organisers announced the creation of designated "sobering up" zones as an alternative to wide-scale arrests of intoxicated fans during the World Cup. [63] Qatar's World Cup chief executive of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, Nasser Al Khater, stated that the purpose of the designated sobering-up areas was to ensure the fans' safety. If a fan was sent to the "sobering up" zone, they were permitted to leave when they could display clearheaded behaviour. Multiple news agencies described the controversy as a "cultural clash" between social conservatism and Islamic morality against the "norms" of secular Western liberal democracies.