

16TH December 2024

FIFA World Cup 2034

The 25th FIFA Men's Football World Cup has been conferred to Saudi Arabia for hosting.



Key Point

- ❖ It was done at the Extraordinary FIFA Congress that was conducted in Zurich, Switzerland on 12 December 2024.
- ❖ Everyone of the 211 FIFA members constituted the Expanded Congress.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia was the only country that has offered to bid for the forthcoming FIFA Men's World Cup 2034.
- ❖ The Congress also clarified that the 2030 FIFA Men's World Cup will be hosted In Six Countries from Three Continents.
- ❖ Three countries namely Spain, Portugal and Morocco come together in an effort to host the 2030 world cup, as it will be a centenary event following the first world cup held in the year 1930 in Uruguay.
- ❖ The next upcoming FIFA Men's World Cup will be the 23rd edition, it will take place in 2026, in Mexico, Canada and the United States with 48 teams.

Asian Development Bank

The Asian Development Bank ADB recently provided a financing of 500 million to India for creation of sustainability and environmentally resistant Infrastructure.



Key Point

- ❖ The loan that was approved on 12 December 2024 is guaranteed by the Government of India.
- ❖ This has the implication that in the event that IIFCL fails to do remittance, the Government of India will make repayment to ADB.
- ❖ ADB is a multilateral development bank, which seeks to help its developing member countries to reduce poverty and improve their people's quality of life.
- ❖ From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, the Asian Development Bank has grown to encompass 68 members—of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- ❖ India became a member in 1966.
- ❖ Israel joined ADB as its 69th member and 20th nonregional member.
- ❖ ADB is open to members and associate members of the United

Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the East.

- ❖ It's also open to other regional countries and non-regional developed countries that are members of the U.N. or of any of its specialized agencies.
- ❖ As of December 31, 2023, India's stake in the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is 6.3%.

Vijay Diwas

A delegation from Bangladesh, including muktijoddhas

(freedom fighters from the 1971 Bangladesh



Liberation War), is expected to attend the Vijay Diwas celebrations at the Eastern Command headquarters in Kolkata.

Key Point

- ❖ Vijay Diwas is commemorated on December 16 every year to honor the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war and to pay tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country.
- ❖ The day is also celebrated in Bangladesh as 'Bijoy Dibos' or Victory Day, commemorating the nation's formal independence from Pakistan.
- ❖ **Key Operations Associated With Creation of Bangladesh**

- **Operation Searchlight:** A Pakistani military operation aimed at suppressing the Bengali nationalist movement in East Pakistan, marked by widespread atrocities, including genocide, killings, and rapes.
- **Operation Jackpot:** India supported the Mukti Bahini (Bangladeshi freedom fighters) with training, resources, and logistical support to aid the liberation movement.
- **Operation Trident:** A successful Indian Navy operation that attacked the Karachi harbor.

'Right to Information Award' - Kerala

The National Right to Information Award was presented to Kerala Information



Commissioner by the Chief Information Commissioner of India.

Key Point

- ❖ The award was organised by the Pravasi Legal Cell (PLC)
- ❖ It is a registered Non-governmental Organization (NGO) working to empower people with the power of law.
- ❖ The RTI Act grants citizens the right to access information held by Public Authorities (PAs).

- ❖ The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions (MoPPG&P) is the nodal agency for its implementation

About	Central	Information
Commissions (CIC)		
❖ Statutory Body formed under the Act of Parliament (RTI Act 2005).		
❖ Chief Commissioner/State Information Commissioner and other ICs (Not more than 10).		Chief Information Commissioner
❖ Appointment By President.		
❖ CIC Selection Committee (3 Members): PM, Leader of Opposition (LS) and Union Cabinet Minister nominated by PM.		
❖ Term as prescribed by the Central Government or the age of 65 years.		
❖ Not eligible for reappointment.		
❖ Resignation to the President.		

Switzerland suspend Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) clause

Switzerland has decided to suspend the Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) clause under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with India starting January 1, 2025.



Key Point

- ❖ This suspension may mean increased taxes for India's business operating in

Switzerland and vice versa, thus may pose a threat to bilateral investments.

- ❖ The most favoured nation clause demands from a country that it grants to a given partner all the trade benefits it gives to other partners.
- ❖ It is one of the main tenets of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). For example, if a WTO member decides to reduce tariffs for one trading partner they have to reduce it to other WTO members as well.
- ❖ The MFN principle aims at opening, fair and equitable trade environment that has no domination from the powerful countries in the international trade systems.

About World Trade Organization

- ❖ WTO is an international organization set up in 1995 by replacing the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) under the Marrakesh Agreement.
- ❖ It is the only global international organization dealing with the international Trade between nations.
- ❖ Its HQ is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ Currently, WTO has 164 members and India is a founding member of WTO.
- ❖ Currently, the head (Director-General) of WTO is Roberto Azevedo.

Short News

- ❖ Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake is set to embark on a state visit to India from December 15 to December 17, 2024
- ❖ A study published in the journal Nature Communications suggests that the Arctic Ocean may experience its first ice-free day by 2030, or possibly sooner
- ❖ Pakistan's star all-rounder Imad Wasim announced his retirement from international cricket on 13 December, bringing an end to an impressive nine-year career.

- ❖ French President Emmanuel Macron has made the selection of François Bayrou as the Prime Minister of France, the third time this year due to the worsening of the political unrest.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has raised the limit for collateral-free agricultural loans from 1.6 lakh to 2 lakh rupees.
- ❖ India celebrated National Energy Conservation Day on December 14, with theme "Powering Sustainability: Every Watt Counts"



Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Recently, which of the following countries suspended the Most Favoured Nation status given to India?
- A. Switzerland
 - B. United States of America
 - C. Germany
 - D. France

Answer - A

2. Which of the following countries is going to organise 25th FIFA Men's Football World Cup 2034?
- A. United Arab Emirates
 - B. Oman
 - C. France
 - D. Argentina

Answer- A

