



Summits and Conferences Capsule for SBI Clerk Mains 2025

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International)

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of March 2025

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	World Sustainable Development Summit	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025 in New Delhi, organized by TERI, to promote global partnerships for sustainable development and climate solutions. He highlighted India's leadership in climate action through initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and Mission LiFE. The summit saw participation from global leaders, including Guyana's PM Brigadier Mark Phillip and Brazil's Minister Marina Silva, reinforcing international cooperation on environmental sustainability.
Summits	WAVEX 2025	Mumbai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAVEX 2025, launched by the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and IAMAI, aims to empower startups in the media and entertainment sector. Held at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, from May 1-4, it offers funding, networking, and exposure opportunities. Startups can pitch to venture capitalists and celebrity investors, with a focus on gaming, animation, XR, metaverse, generative AI, and next-gen content platforms.
Events	WAVES India: A Bird's Eye View Challenge		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WAVES India: A Bird's Eye View Challenge is a Create in India initiative organized by BECIL in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The competition invites drone pilots and filmmakers to create 2-3 minute videos showcasing India's landscapes, heritage, and vibrant life through aerial cinematography, capturing the country's beauty from a bird's-eye view.
Events	Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025	Barcelona, Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia represented India at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025 in Barcelona, Spain. He highlighted India's 5G expansion, lowest data tariffs, indigenous telecom infrastructure, and cybersecurity framework. Scindia emphasized tech governance, innovation, and global partnerships while unveiling the India Mobile Congress 2025 and inaugurating the Bharat Pavilion to showcase India's telecom capabilities.
Events	GRIDCON 2025	New Delhi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GRIDCON 2025, an International Conference cum Exhibition, was inaugurated by Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, on March 9, 2025, at IICC, Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi. The event, which runs from March 9 to March 11, 2025, is organized by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) under the patronage of the Ministry of Power and in association with CIGRE India. It aims to strengthen India's power grid and promote innovations in renewable energy integration, with the Union Minister of State for Power & New & Renewable Energy, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, also in attendance.





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Events	69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)	New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India, led by Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi, participated in the 69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) from March 10-21, 2025 in New York. The session focused on gender equality and women's empowerment, with India reaffirming its commitment to holistic development, inclusive policies, and international cooperation for women's rights.
Events	353rd ILO Governing Body Meeting	Genev	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India participated in the 353rd ILO Governing Body Meeting in Geneva (March 10-20, 2025), led by Ms. Sumita Dawra, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. India highlighted its achievements in social protection, living wages, and fair migration, with initiatives like EPFO, ESIC, and e-Shram Portal. India supported ILO's Global Coalition for Social Justice, the Second World Summit for Social Development, and ILO's Fair Migration Agenda. The country also emphasized its Factories Act, 1948 and Occupational Safety Code, 2020 for worker safety.
Conference	Water Sustainability Conference 2025		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Sustainability Conference 2025, organized by BWUE and TERI, focused on enhancing Industrial Water Use Efficiency. Inaugurated by Union Minister C. R. Patil, the conference emphasized the 4R approach (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Recharge), with Respect added as the 5th principle for sustainable water management in industries.
Conference	4th 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Conference		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the 4th 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Conference in Munich, India emphasized the need for international cooperation to combat terror financing, particularly concerning cross-border fund flows and digital transactions. India highlighted the evolving methods terrorists use for financial transfers and called for unified global action to tackle the growing threat.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of February 2025

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	Global Justice, Love & Peace Summit	Dubai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dubai will host the Global Justice, Love & Peace Summit on April 12-13, 2025, at the Dubai Exhibition Centre. Organized by the I am Peacekeeper Movement, the summit will feature 2,800 peacekeepers and 72 speakers, including 10 Nobel Laureates and heads of state. Under the patronage of Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, the event aligns with the UAE's Year of Community initiative and aims to foster justice, love, and peace globally.
Summits	BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025	Gandhinagar, Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025 will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from 7th to 11th February 2025, bringing together young leaders from BIMSTEC nations. Inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the summit aims to strengthen ties among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Focused on youth-led initiatives, leadership, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	AI Paris Summit	Paris	<p>Key Takeaways from PM Modi's Speech at AI Paris Summit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> AI's Transformative Impact – AI is revolutionizing governance, economy, security, and society at an unprecedented pace. Global AI Governance – Collaboration is crucial for fair regulations that promote trust and shared values. Beyond Risk Management – AI governance must balance risk mitigation with fostering innovation and accessibility. AI for Global Good – AI can advance healthcare, education, and agriculture while tackling cybersecurity threats. AI and Jobs – AI reshapes jobs, necessitating investment in skilling and re-skilling workforces. Sustainability in AI – AI's high energy consumption demands green energy solutions and efficient AI models. India's AI Leadership – India's Digital Public Infrastructure and National AI Mission drive inclusive AI growth. Human-Centric AI – AI must serve humanity with ethical responsibility and inclusivity.
Summits	Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence	Paris	<p>The "Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence" has started in Paris, co-chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. The summit brings together world leaders, industry experts, and researchers to discuss AI ethics, regulation, and responsible development, aiming to shape the future of AI as it transforms industries, economies, and governance globally.</p>
Summits	World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)	Mumbai	<p>India will host the inaugural World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai from May 1 to 4, 2025. The summit aims to establish India as a global media and entertainment hub, bringing together industry leaders, CEOs, professionals, and creative minds to foster collaboration, investment, and technological advancements in the entertainment sector.</p>
Summits	Global AI Summit	Paris	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will host the next Global AI Summit, following discussions at the AI Action Summit in Paris. Co-chaired by PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, the summit focused on global cooperation in AI. India's leadership in AI, commitment to inclusivity, and key AI initiatives were highlighted.</p>
Summits	World Government Summit (WGS) 2025	Dubai	<p>The World Government Summit (WGS) 2025 was held in Dubai from February 11-13, focusing on "Shaping Future Governments." India, represented by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, highlighted its commitment to green growth and climate resilience. Yadav discussed clean technology, electric vehicles, and climate-resilient infrastructure, emphasizing the need for financial resources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and tackle climate change.</p>
Summits	17th BRICS Summit	Brazil, Russia	<p>The 17th BRICS Summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro on July 6-7, 2025, bringing together Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and invited nations. The summit will focus on global governance reforms, economic cooperation, and shared prosperity among Global South countries. With BRICS expanding to include nations like Iran, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, this event will shape future global trade, finance, and diplomatic ties.</p>





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Events	14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum	New Delhi	The 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14AFAF) held from February 12-14, 2025 , at ICAR Convention Centre, New Delhi , with the theme "Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific." Organized by the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) , ICAR, Department of Fisheries (DoF) , and AFS Indian Branch (AFSIB) , the forum focus on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development . With over 1,000 delegates from 24 countries, the event address issues like resource management, climate change, aquaculture sustainability, and policy advancements . Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh inaugurate the event.
Events	All India Kinnar Mahasammelan	Ajmer	Ajmer hosted the first-ever All India Kinnar Mahasammelan from February 17, 2025, at a private school in Vaishali Nagar. The 10-day transgender conference, organized in memory of Anita Bai , addresses issues faced by the transgender community. Over 2,000 members participated, engaging in religious rituals like Kalash Puja and Chak Puja . The event also features stalls on medical services, banking, and travel, with strict supervision for invited members.
Events	SOUL (School of Ultimate Leadership) Conclave 2025	New Delhi	The SOUL (School of Ultimate Leadership) Conclave 2025 , inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi , focuses on developing future leaders for a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) . The event aims to train individuals in governance, business, technology, sports, and social sectors , fostering strategic decision-making and a solution-driven mindset . A dedicated SOUL campus will be set up near GIFT City, Gujarat to provide world-class leadership training.
Events	Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)	Bangladesh	India has taken over the Chairmanship of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) from Bangladesh during the 13th Governing Council Meeting in Malé, Maldives . The transition occurred during the "Policy Guidance for Mainstreaming Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in Small-Scale Fisheries" conference, held from February 20 to 22, 2025 , organized by the Ministry of Fisheries & Ocean Resources of the Maldives in collaboration with BOBP-IGO.
Events	SAMVAD programme		Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a video message at the SAMVAD programme in Thailand , emphasizing India's cultural ties with Thailand and Asia. He recalled SAMVAD's origins with former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe in 2015 and its role in promoting debate and understanding . His speech focused on shared Asian heritage, conflict avoidance, environmental harmony , and the teachings of Bhagwan Buddha for a peaceful, prosperous future.
Conference	IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025		India is hosting the IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025 in New Delhi from February 10-14, 2025 , marking the first time it's held in the country. The conference brings together experts from over 55 countries to discuss public administration, governance, and policymaking innovations, and includes the annual General Assembly of the International Institute of Administrative Science (IIAS) .





Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of January 2025

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India will host the first-ever World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in New Delhi from February 5-9, 2024. Announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this global event aims to position India as a hub for content creation and creative collaboration, drawing leaders from the media, entertainment, and creative industries worldwide.
Summits	AI Action Summit	Paris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the AI Action Summit in Paris on February 10-11, 2025, hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron. The summit will focus on Public Interest AI, Future of Work, Innovation, Trust in AI, and Global AI Governance, with a special emphasis on combating misinformation and misuse of AI. The event will bring together global leaders, including heads of state, CEOs, academia, and NGOs. India's participation highlights its role in shaping global AI discussions.
Events	Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025, organized by the Department of Youth Affairs under Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, began on January 10, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. This reimagined version of the National Youth Festival aims to celebrate youth leadership, with over 3,000 participants selected from 30 lakh applicants. The event focuses on empowering young leaders to contribute to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, through thematic discussions, creative competitions, and cultural experiences.
Conference	Sun, Space Weather, and Solar-Stellar Connections'	Bengaluru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An international conference titled 'Sun, Space Weather, and Solar-Stellar Connections' was held in Bengaluru from January 20 to 24, 2025, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO). Organized by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), the event gathered over 200 solar physicists from India and abroad to discuss advancements in solar magnetism, solar-stellar connections, and space weather.
Conference	Raisina Middle East Conference	Abu Dhabi, UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Raisina Middle East Conference was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on January 28-29, 2025, with Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister, as the Chief Guest. Organized by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, the conference focused on regional geopolitics, trade, and strategic partnerships.
Conference	BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting	India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India will host the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting from March 3-7, 2025. The event, themed "Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth," will bring together around 45 youth representatives from BRICS nations to strengthen entrepreneurship and innovation cooperation. Key discussions will focus on building a framework for young entrepreneurs and increasing their participation in global markets.





Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of December 2024

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Conclave	India Maritime Heritage Conclave 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1st India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC 2024), organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) on December 11-12, marked a significant occasion to honor India's rich maritime legacy while envisioning its future as a global maritime leader. This landmark event brought together key ministers, maritime experts, and international dignitaries, reaffirming India's crucial role in global trade and culture. The conclave also highlighted the nation's growing maritime potential, emphasizing sustainable practices and opportunities for employment and innovation in the sector. A focal point of the conclave was the upcoming National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat, a city with historical significance dating back to 2600 BCE. The NMHC will showcase ancient shipbuilding methods and trade techniques, celebrating India's historical contributions to global maritime practices. The conclave was a collaborative effort, with contributions from the Ministry of Labor and Employment, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Tourism and Culture, alongside the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. States like Gujarat, Goa, Bihar, and Arunachal Pradesh also played a key role, reflecting the event's national importance.
Conference	14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14)	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) is being held from December 4-6, 2024 in New Delhi, hosted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The event brings together meteorologists, satellite operators, scientists, and researchers to promote collaboration and advance satellite meteorology through presentations, panel discussions, and a training workshop.
Conference	World Maritime Technology Conference	Chennai, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC), held every three years, will take place in Chennai, India from December 4-6, 2024. Organized by the World Maritime Technology Congress, the event brings together 21 member organizations from 17 countries in the maritime technology sector. It will be hosted by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) Chennai Branch.
Conference	10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024)	Dehradun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024) and Arogya Expo were inaugurated in Dehradun, with a focus on "Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective." Dignitaries like Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav and Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami attended the event, emphasizing Ayurveda's integration with modern technology. Key announcements included the launch of Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan, aiming to assess the constitution of 1 crore individuals, and the introduction of the Ayush Grid to enhance healthcare delivery, supported by a \$1.3 billion investment pipeline.





Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of November 2024

Category	Event	Key Points
Summits	COP29 Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP 29 Venue: The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 22nd November 2024. • Key Focus: Enhanced transparency framework, collective quantified goal on finance, and the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). • Parallel Meetings: CMP 19 (Kyoto Protocol), CMA 6 (Paris Agreement), SBSTA 61, and SBI 61 will also take place alongside COP 29. • Theme: Azerbaijan’s COP 29 Presidency operates under the theme “In Solidarity for a Green World.” • COP 29 Presidency Pillars: Enhancing Ambition for the 1.5°C goal and Enabling Action with financial and technical support for NDCs. • Minister Mukhtar Babayev: Leads Azerbaijan’s COP 29 Presidency. • Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C: Joint initiative by COP 28, COP 29, and COP 30 Presidencies to enhance NDC ambition through global cooperation. • Climate Finance Focus: Discussions on achieving the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for developing nations. • Unmet Commitments: Developed countries pledged \$100 billion annually in 2009 but remain short of targets. • Estimated Needs: \$580 billion is required by 2030 for addressing climate-induced loss and damage. • Carbon Markets: Key discussions on carbon trading to meet Paris Agreement targets. • NDC Submission Deadline: New NDCs due by February 2025 with updated emission reduction goals. • US Political Influence: Possible re-election of Donald Trump could impact global climate cooperation. • Azerbaijan’s Controversies: Critics question its human rights record and reliance on fossil fuels as a “petro-state.” • Financial Goals: Success indicators include securing financial agreements and advancing carbon market mechanisms. • Future COP Host: Australia is likely to host COP 31, with a focus on Pacific region climate issues.
Summits	SATRC-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SATRC-25 held in New Delhi (Nov 11-13, 2024), inaugurated by Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. • Highlighted India's role as the "Voice of the Global South" and need for collaborative telecom policies. • Focused on digital inclusivity, sustainable infrastructure, consumer protection, and regulatory innovation. • India's digital economy: 1.2 billion phones, 970 million internet users, projected to reach 20% of GDP by 2026-27. • Emphasized knowledge sharing, regional cooperation, and policy harmonization for sustainable growth. • Organized by Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT); hosted by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
Summits	Asian Buddhist Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is hosting the first-ever Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in New Delhi from November 5 to 6, 2024, under the theme, “Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia.” • This event, organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), celebrates the deep-rooted Buddhist heritage in India and underscores its role in promoting peace and unity across Asia.





Category	Event	Key Points
Summits	G-20 Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why in News: 2024 G20 Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, addressing global challenges like hunger, poverty, and climate change. • Brazil's Role: Hosted by Brazil under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. • Key Proposals: Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, Tropical Forest Forever Fund, and a transition to a low-carbon economy. • Key Declaration: Rio de Janeiro Declaration emphasizing food sovereignty, agroecological practices, and governance reform. • Climate Change: Focus on emission reduction, deforestation prevention, and sustainable economies. • Global Governance Reform: Call to reform the UN Security Council for better Global South representation. • Tax Justice: Advocacy for progressive taxation of the super-rich to fund social policies. • Participating Countries: Brazil, with contributions from civil society groups and marginalized communities. • Social Movements Representation: Involvement of women, black communities, indigenous peoples, workers, and LGBTQIA+ communities. • Notable People: President Lula da Silva, Mazé Moraes, Oliver Röpkke. • Key Schemes: Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty aligned with SDGs for food sovereignty. • Next G20 Host: South Africa will host the next G20 Summit.
Summits	India-Australia 2nd Annual Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why in the news? India and Australia concluded their 2nd Annual Summit alongside G20 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. • Economic and Trade Relations: Surge in bilateral trade under ECTA, progress on CECA, and extension of AIBX till 2028. • Energy, Science, and Technology: Launch of Renewable Energy Partnership (REP) for green hydrogen, solar PV, and energy storage, collaboration on critical minerals, and deepening space cooperation. • Defence and Security: Renewal of Defence and Security Declaration in 2025, joint maritime security roadmap, and enhanced interoperability. • Parliamentary Cooperation: Agreement to strengthen inter-parliamentary exchanges. • Education and People-to-People Ties: New consulates in Bengaluru and Brisbane, launch of Working Holiday Maker Visa and MATES Scheme, and expansion of Australian university campuses in India. • Sports Diplomacy: Collaboration in training, workforce development, and sports science. • Regional and Multilateral Cooperation: Commitment to an open Indo-Pacific, enhanced cooperation in Quad and IORA, and bilateral efforts under IPOI for maritime ecology. • Global Peace and Security: Joint condemnation of terrorism, support for FATF initiatives, and advocacy for conflict resolution via diplomacy. • Looking Ahead: Plans to commemorate the 5th anniversary of CSP in 2025 and India to host the 3rd Annual Summit.
Events	352nd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation	<p>The 352nd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is currently taking place in Geneva.</p> <p>Dates : 28th October to November 7th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From India Sumita Dawra, Labour and Employment Secretary of India, presented India's initiatives and progress in improving living standards and employment.





Category	Event	Key Points
		<p>Agenda Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan for 2026–2029 • Global Coalition for Social Justice • Democratization of Governance <p>World Summit for Social Development 2025</p>
Events	ISA's Key Decisions In 7 th Assembly Session	<p>India, France elected President, Co-president of International Solar Alliance for 2 years from 2024-2026</p> <p>Decision was taken at the 7th Session of ISA at Bharat Mandapam.</p> <p>Regional Vice Eight Vice Presidents appointed across four regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa: Ghana and Seychelles (Vice Presidents); South Sudan and Comoros (Vice Chairs). • Asia and the Pacific: Australia and Sri Lanka (Vice Presidents); UAE and Papua New Guinea (Vice Chairs). • Europe and Others: Germany and Italy (Vice Presidents); Greece and Norway (Vice Chairs). • Latin America and Caribbean: Grenada and Suriname (Vice Presidents); Jamaica and Haiti (Vice Chairs). <p>Ashish Khanna appointed Director General-Designate, to assume office in March 2025 following Ajay Mathur's term.</p>
Conference	Sagarmanthan Dialogue 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sagarmanthan Dialogue 2024 highlights India's push to lead in sustainability, innovation, and connectivity. • India's maritime sector is crucial to its economic growth, with a 7,500-kilometer coastline, 12 major ports, and over 200 minor ports. It handles 95% of trade by volume and 70% by value, and ranks as the third-largest in ship recycling globally. • In 2023, India had a fleet of 1,530 ships. The sector has seen significant growth, with cargo capacity at major ports increasing by 87.01% from 2014-15 to 2023-24. • Merchandise exports reached USD 451 billion in FY23. Paradip Port: Became India's largest port by cargo volume in FY24, handling 145.38 million tonnes.
Conference	Global Cooperative Conference 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Global Cooperative Conference 2024 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking the launch of the United Nations' International Year of Cooperatives 2025. • The event highlighted the role of cooperatives in global development, particularly for rural populations, women, and farmers. • Key moments included the release of a commemorative postal stamp and an address by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of October 2024

Category	Event	Key Points
Summits	16th BRICS Summit	<p>Why in News: 16th BRICS Summit held in Kazan, Russia; Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and UAE join as new members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edition: 16th BRICS Summit. • Name: BRICS Summit 2024. • Organized by: Hosted by Russia. • Place: Kazan, Russia. • Theme: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security." • Last Venue: 15th Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa. • Chairmanship: Russia.





Category	Event	Key Points
		<p>Organisation Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acronym: BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). • Established: BRIC concept in 2001, first summit in 2009, expanded to BRICS in 2010. <p>Important Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRICS Pay: Introduced as an alternative payment system to reduce SWIFT/US dollar reliance. • Kazan Declaration: Endorsed UN reforms, supported Palestine's UN membership, encouraged national currency use in trade. <p>Bilateral Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ China-Russia: Strengthened Belt and Road Initiative, Eurasian Economic Union integration. ○ India-China: Resolved military standoff, enhanced bilateral ties. ○ India-Iran: Focused on Chabahar Port, regional stability, and Central Asia. ○ Russia-South Africa: Reinforced historical ties; acknowledged Russia's apartheid-era support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement by Indian Leader: PM Modi advocated for inclusive UN reforms to ensure relevance. • Next Summit: To be hosted by Brazil in 2025. <p>Important Past Editions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15th Summit (Johannesburg, 2023): Expansion of BRICS with six new members effective from January 2024. • 5th Summit (Durban, 2013): Formation of BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA). • 6th Summit (Fortaleza, 2014): Official NDB launch. • 9th Summit (Xiamen, 2017): "BRICS Plus" concept introduced.
Summits	12th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Bioenergy Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), addressed the 12th CII Bioenergy Summit. • The summit's theme was "Fueling the Future - Securing India's Green Growth Goals". Gadkari highlighted that ethanol blending in petrol has increased from 1.53% in 2014 to 15% in 2024, with a target of reaching 20% by 2025.
Summits	2024 AYUSH Medical Value Travel Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inauguration of the Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024, held in Mumbai, aims to strengthen India's position in the global Medical Value Travel (MVT) sector by integrating Ayush with modern healthcare. • The summit, themed "Global Synergy in Ayush: Transforming Health and Wellness through Medical Value Travel," is organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Ayush (India), the Ministry of Tourism, the Government of Maharashtra, and the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC). • The event seeks to promote India's traditional healing systems as an essential part of the global health and wellness industry.
Summits	Asia Clean Energy Summit 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Asia Clean Energy Summit (ACES), a cornerstone event of the annual Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW), is held on the 11th edition from October 22-24, 2024, in Singapore.
Summits	44th and 45th ASEAN Summits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience." • Lao President: Thongloun Sisoulith emphasized peace, stability, and multilateralism. • Focus Areas: Regional integration, addressing climate change, tackling transnational crime, and promoting socio-economic development. • Prime Minister: Sonexay Siphandone outlined 9 priorities aligned with ASEAN Community Vision 2045.





Category	Event	Key Points
Summits	ASEAN Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN Summits (Oct 8-11, 2024): Held in Vientiane, Laos; nearly 90 documents adopted focusing on resilience, connectivity, digital economy, and green transition. • ASEAN Vision Statement on Indo-Pacific: Emphasizes ASEAN's role in regional security; declarations on supply chain resilience, biodiversity, and climate action. • Vietnam's Bilateral Engagements: Promoted trade, food security, and digital transformation, focusing on AI, green energy, and trilateral cooperation with Laos and Cambodia. • ASEAN-Australia Special Summit 2024: Australia announced over \$500 million in initiatives, including a \$2 billion investment facility, startup programs, scholarships, and maritime cooperation. • 21st ASEAN-India Summit Key Outcomes: PM Modi emphasized ASEAN unity and economic growth; India-ASEAN trade doubled to \$130 billion in a decade; called for a review of ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AITIGA). • 10-Point Plan for Connectivity & Resilience: Includes initiatives such as Tourism Year 2025, youth summits, women scientists conclave, disaster resilience funding, health initiatives, and green hydrogen workshops. • Future Plan of Action (2026-2030): A new ASEAN-India action plan under development, with statements on strategic partnerships and digital transformation. • Joint Digital Transformation Statement: Focuses on digital infrastructure, fintech collaboration, cybersecurity, AI workforce development, capacity building, and sustainable financing.
Events	79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session took place from 10th to 30th September 2024 at the UN headquarters. The State of Palestine was granted a seat among the UN member states. • The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) organized the “CSIR for Connect, Collaborate, Converge and Convert (5C) for Global Sustainable Development” on 18th-19th September 2024. India signed the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement and joined the US-led Minerals Security Finance Network.
Events	75th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The congress was held from 14th to 18th October 2024 at the Milano Congress Center. • The IAF World Space Award 2024 was awarded to ISRO Chairman Dr. S. Somanath. • The European Space Agency (ESA) launched the Moonlight Programme for lunar communication, aimed at establishing Europe’s first satellite constellation for telecommunication and navigation on the Moon.
Events	3rd edition of World Food India (WFI 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event was held from 19th to 22nd September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, under the theme 'Processing for Prosperity'. • The National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management (NIFTEM) signed 19 MoUs and completed 3 technology transfers. • Sarathi, an IoT-based hybrid dryer, biodegradable packaging films, and rapid detection kits were key highlights.
Events	Climate and Health Solutions (CHS) India Conclave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2-day conclave, organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), focused on climate change and its impact on public health in India. • The conclave brought together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to develop actionable strategies for improving the health sector.





Category	Event	Key Points
Events	6th consecutive India-US Commercial Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-chaired by Union Minister Piyush Goyal and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, the dialogue in Washington, D.C. focused on enhancing bilateral trade. India and the USA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand the critical minerals supply chain.
Events	ITU WTSA Hackathon 2024 Phase-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase-2 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) Hackathon was held in New Delhi on 8th October 2024. It was hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and focused on the theme "AI Bharat 5G/6G Sandbox." This event was a precursor to the WTSA 2024, which took place alongside the India Mobile Congress (IMC).
Events	Modern Technologies in Survey-Resurvey for Urban Land Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaugurated by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the international workshop at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre focused on showcasing modern technologies for urban land record modernization. The aim was to present global best practices and plan pilot projects for selected urban areas.
Events	149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held from 13th to 17th October 2024, the assembly's theme was "Harnessing science, technology, and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future." The assembly adopted a resolution on the UN Secretary-General's plea for recommitment to multilateralism for global peace. The Parliament of Jamaica rejoined the IPU as its 181st member after a gap of almost two decades.
Conference	National Conference on the PESA Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaugurated by Union Minister of State Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, this conference addressed the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) at Dr. Ambedkar International Central. It launched the PESA-GDPD (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) portal and seven specialized training modules aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of GDPDs.
Conference	The 21st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Zone III Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conference focused on the theme "Democratic Sanctity, Transparency, Accountability, and Results from Democracy." Delegates discussed ways to strengthen democracy and ensure accountability in parliamentary practices.
Conference	The 2nd India Sugar & BioEnergy Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This conference brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers to encourage dialogue and innovation in the sugar and bioenergy sectors. It aimed at exploring sustainable growth and development strategies for the industry.
Conference	Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held with the theme "Resource Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific," this conference focused on the geopolitical importance of resources in the region and their impact on regional security and economic stability.
Conference	International Film Festival and Forum on Environment and Wildlife, Vatavaran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme for the festival was "Wetlands for Life," aiming to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands ecosystems and promote their conservation.
Conference	Second Army Commanders' Conference 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two-day conference served as a forum for Senior Commanders to review operational preparedness, discuss critical strategies, and outline directives for the future of the Indian Army.





Category	Event	Key Points
Conference	19th East Asia Summit (EAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The summit focused on the role of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) in shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific. The Prime Minister emphasized ASEAN's importance in the region's stability and growth.
Conference	19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conference featured sessions on smart regulation for medical products. It focused on delivering quality assured products and addressing global challenges in drug and medical device regulation.
Conference	ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the WTSA 2024 alongside the India Mobile Congress. The event focused on discussions around 5G/6G technology and telecommunication standards.
Conference	2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme "Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia-Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction" emphasized strengthening disaster resilience and response in the region.
Conference	Advancements of Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda (AROHA-2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme was Advancements in Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda, positioning Ayurveda as a key pillar for global health and wellness.
Conference	149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme was "Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for a More Peaceful and Sustainable Future." Delegates discussed the role of science and technology in advancing peace and sustainability.
Conference	The 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was the first visit of an Indian minister to Pakistan since the 2015 visit of the then External Affairs Minister. The SCO discussed regional cooperation and strengthening multilateral engagements.
Conference	International Workshop on Modern Technologies in Survey-Resurvey for Urban Land Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This workshop focused on urban land record modernization, presenting best practices, and planning pilot projects for selected urban areas.
Conference	G7 Defence Ministers Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting discussed global security challenges and cooperation. Representatives from NATO and the European Union, along with Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, participated.
Conference	NHRC Concludes National Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On its 31st Foundation Day, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) organized a day-long national conference on the "Rights of Older Persons" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
Conference	16th BRICS Summit and BRICS+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme was "Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security." BRICS members discussed regional stability, security, and economic growth in a multilateral framework.
Conference		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event: 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2024, Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Organizers: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Institute of Urban Transport (India), supported by Government of Gujarat & Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. Theme: Standardisation and Optimisation of Urban Transport Solutions. Focus Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardization of urban mobility, integration of transport modes, funding opportunities, E-Bus ecosystem development.





Category	Event	Key Points
		<p>Award Winners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Sustainable Transport System: Kochi • Best Public Transport System: Bhubaneswar • Best Non-Motorized Transport: Srinagar • Best Safety System: Gandhinagar • Best Intelligent Transport System: Surat • Most Innovative Financing Mechanism: Jammu • Best Public Involvement: Bengaluru • Best Multimodal Integration (Metro): Bengaluru • Best Passenger Services (Metro): Mumbai <p>Purpose: Platform for manufacturers to showcase best practices, technologies, and discuss urban mobility challenges.</p>
Conference	India Digital Agri Conference 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event: Co-organized by ICFA and IIT Ropar TIF – AWaDH in New Delhi, focused on using digital technologies like AI, IoT, drones, and data analytics to modernize agriculture. • Focus: Transition to digital farming, collaboration between farmers, researchers, and tech developers, and promotion of the Digital Agriculture Mission.

COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

COMMITTEES & MEETINGS of January 2025

Government Forms Committee to Update WPI Base Year

On January 2, 2025, the Government of India established an **18-member committee** to revise the base year of the Wholesale Price Index (**WPI**) **from 2011-12 to 2022-23**. This initiative aims to enhance the accuracy of factory-gate inflation measures, reflecting structural changes in the economy over the past decade.

Committee Leadership and Composition

The committee is chaired by **Professor Ramesh Chand**, a member of NITI Aayog. It includes experts from various sectors, such as economics, finance, and statistics, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the revision process.

Terms of Reference

The committee has been tasked with:

1. **Commodity Selection:** Identifying commodities for inclusion in the WPI and Producer Price Index (PPI) for the 2022-23 base year, considering structural economic changes.
2. **Price Collection System Review:** Evaluating and recommending improvements to the existing price collection methodology.
3. **Computational Methodology:** Proposing computational methods for WPI and PPI.
4. **PPI Compilation Methodology:** Assessing and suggesting enhancements to the PPI compilation methodology approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices & Cost of Living.
5. **Transition Roadmap:** Developing a plan for transitioning from WPI to PPI.
6. **Reliability Enhancements:** Recommending measures to improve the reliability of WPI and PPI data.

The committee is expected to submit its final report within 18 months.

Context and Implications

The last revision of the WPI occurred in 2015, updating the base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The upcoming revision to 2022-23 aims to incorporate significant economic developments, including the expansion of the service sector, which constitutes over half of India's economic output. Transitioning to a Producer Price Index (PPI) will provide a more comprehensive measure of inflation at the producer level, encompassing both goods and services.





India Joins UN's Big Data for Official Statistics Committee

Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	India Joins UN's Big Data for Official Statistics Committee
UN Committee	United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD)
India's Membership	Joined in January 2025 to contribute to global statistical practices
Key Contribution	Shaping global standards for using Big Data in official statistics
India's Innovations	Data Innovation Lab, use of satellite imagery, machine learning
Benefits of Big Data	Enhances real-time insights, reduces time lag, improves data accuracy
Strategic Importance	Aligns domestic advancements with global goals for evidence-based policymaking
Non-Traditional Data Sources	IoT, satellite imagery, private sector data to modernize statistical processes
Policymaking Impact	Provides real-time insights to address socio-economic challenges
SDG Monitoring	Helps in tracking and reporting on sustainable development goals
What is Big Data?	High-volume, high-velocity, and wide-variety digital information generated from GPS, ATMs, sensors, satellites, etc.
Sources of Big Data	GPS devices, ATMs, scanning devices, sensors, mobile phones, satellites, social media
UN-CEBD Formation	Established by the UN Statistical Commission during its 45th session
Purpose of UN-CEBD	To explore benefits and challenges of Big Data for official statistics and SDG monitoring
Key Issues Addressed	Methodology, quality, technology, data access, legislation, privacy, management, and finance
Benefits of Big Data	Real-time insights, monitoring SDGs, timely policy interventions, cost-effective solutions
Focus Areas	Cost-benefit analysis of Big Data usage in official statistics

India to Host 28th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2026

Key Points	Details
Why in News	India to host the 28th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CSPOC) in 2026, announced by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, focusing on AI and social media in parliamentary processes.
Last Hosted by India	2010
Previous Hosting Years	1970-71, 1986, and 2010
Establishment of CSPOC	1969, by Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada
Frequency of CSPOC Conferences	Biennially
CSPOC Secretariat	Canada
Themes for 2026	AI integration, social media in parliamentary processes
India's Parliamentary Initiative	Lok Sabha's adoption of AI for translations and accessibility
Philosophy Highlighted	"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" – The world is one family
Key Global Challenges Addressed	Climate change, terrorism, cybercrime, and inequality

RBI Constitutes New Advisory Committee for Bank Licensing

On January 20, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) established a new **Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC)** to evaluate applications for **Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks (SFBs)**. This committee is chaired by former **RBI Deputy Governor M. K. Jain** and comprises five members.

Committee Composition and Tenure

The SEAC includes:

- **M. K. Jain:** Chairperson and former Deputy Governor, RBI.
- **Revathy Iyer:** Director, Central Board, RBI.
- **Parvathy V. Sundaram:** Former Executive Director, RBI.





- **Hemant G. Contractor:** Former Managing Director of State Bank of India and former Chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
- **N. S. Kannan:** Former Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.

The committee's tenure is set for three years, with secretarial support provided by the RBI's Department of Regulation.

Background and Evolution

This initiative follows the **precedent set in March 2021**, when the RBI formed a similar committee led by former **Deputy Governor Shyamala Gopinath**. The SEAC's role is to assess applications for Universal Banks and SFBs, ensuring applicants meet the necessary criteria. Notably, applications from existing SFBs seeking Universal Bank licenses may bypass this vetting process, as their credentials were previously evaluated during their initial licensing.

Current Applications Under Review

The RBI is currently reviewing applications from:

- **Annapura Finance:** Seeking a Universal Bank license.
- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB):** Applied for a Universal Bank license.
- **Fino Payments Bank:** Applied for an SFB license.
- **VFS Capital:** Applied for an SFB license.

Waqf Amendment Bill Cleared by Joint Parliamentary Committee: Key Changes and Implications

The **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** approved the Waqf Amendment Bill, a significant legislative reform aimed at restructuring the management of Muslim charitable properties in India. The bill proposes 44 amendments to the existing framework, with the JPC approving 14 key alterations. This article delves into the specifics of the bill, its proposed changes, and the political dynamics that shaped its approval.

What is Waqf Amendment Bill?

The Waqf Amendment Bill seeks to overhaul the administration of Waqf properties across the country by introducing 44 changes to the current system. These changes were drafted and tabled in the Lok Sabha in August 2024. The bill aims to bring about greater inclusivity and transparency in the functioning of Waqf boards and the

Central Waqf Council.

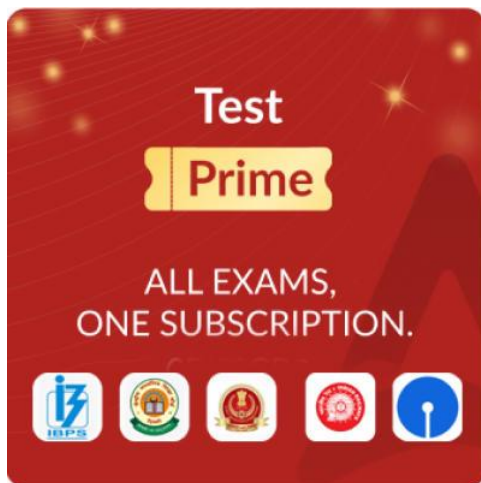
- **Key Objective:** Improve the governance of Waqf properties to benefit marginalized communities, including the Pasmanda Muslims.
- **Amendments Proposed:** A total of 66 amendments were suggested—23 by MPs from the ruling BJP and 44 by opposition members.

Political Dynamics of the Committee

The Joint Parliamentary Committee tasked with examining the bill comprises 31 members from both houses of

Parliament:

- **Ruling Party Representation:** 16 MPs from the BJP and its National Democratic Alliance (NDA) allies.
- **Opposition Representation:** 13 MPs, including one from the YSR Congress Party and one nominated member.





Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024-Voting on Amendments

During the committee’s deliberations:

- The **14 amendments** approved were proposed by the ruling BJP and NDA members.
- The **44 amendments** proposed by the opposition were rejected, with voting largely along party lines (16 in favor of the BJP’s stance vs. 10 opposing).

Details of the Approved Amendments

- **Inclusion of Non-Muslim Members:** The composition of state Waqf boards will now allow for non-Muslim CEOs and at least two non-Muslim members.
- **Changes in the Central Waqf Council:** The council will now include a union minister, three Members of Parliament, two ex-judges, four individuals of ‘national repute,’ and senior government officials. None of these members are required to belong to the Islamic faith.
- **Property Ownership Disputes:** Section 3C(2) of the bill empowers the state government, through the jurisdictional Collector, to determine whether a property claimed as Waqf is actually government land. This change shifts the authority from Waqf Tribunals to Collectors.

Rejected Opposition Amendments

The opposition’s proposed changes, aimed at strengthening the autonomy of Waqf boards and safeguarding against government overreach, were voted down. Key suggestions included:

- Increasing representation from minority communities.
- Retaining the Waqf Tribunal’s authority in property disputes.
- Ensuring transparency in the appointment of board members.

Opposition members alleged bias in the voting process, highlighting the dominance of the ruling party in the JPC.

Timeline and Next Steps

- **Initial Deadline:** The committee was originally required to submit its report by November 29, 2024.
- **Extension:** The deadline was extended to February 13, 2025, coinciding with the final day of the Budget Session.
- **Final Voting:** The approved amendments will be confirmed through voting on January 29, 2025.
- **Report Submission:** The final report is expected by January 31, 2025.

Impact of the Proposed Changes

On Waqf Property Management

The bill introduces significant changes to the way Waqf properties are governed:

- Greater government oversight through the inclusion of non-Muslim members.
- A shift in dispute resolution authority from Waqf Tribunals to state-appointed Collectors.

On Minority Representation

While the amendments aim to enhance inclusivity, critics argue that the inclusion of non-Muslim members could dilute the community-specific focus of Waqf boards.

On Marginalized Communities

The government asserts that the bill will benefit poor and Pasmada Muslims by improving the efficiency and transparency of Waqf property administration.

COMMITTEES & MEETINGS of October 2025

MEETINGS

Meetings	Venue	Key Points
4th Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held at Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat (16th-18th September 2024). - REC Limited signed MoUs worth Rs.1.12 lakh crore for renewable energy projects. - Gujarat won awards for renewable energy achievements and ranked in the top 3 for renewable energy capacity. - Investment commitments worth Rs. 32.45 lakh crore by 2030.










Meetings	Venue	Key Points
1st meeting of the Country Programme Advisory Committee	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chaired by Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. - Reviewed implementation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2027 with UN World Food Programme representatives.
194th meeting of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chaired by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Labour & Employment. - Extension of Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna till 30th June 2026. - Provision of medical care under Ayushman Bharat PMJAY. - 10 new ESIC medical colleges approved across India.
Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Heads of Government	Islamabad, Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held on 16th October 2024 under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif. - Union Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar addressed the 23rd SCO CHG, becoming the first Indian foreign minister to visit Pakistan in nearly a decade.
India Joins 44th Codex Nutrition Committee Meeting	Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why in News: India attended the 44th session of CCNFSU in Dresden, Germany (Oct 2-6, 2024). • India's Role: Key contributor with pivotal interventions on significant agenda items. • Probiotic Guidelines: India urged revision of outdated FAO/WHO probiotic documents, highlighting need for international regulatory harmonization; FAO/WHO to review 2001-2002 documents with updated scientific findings. • Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs): India provided insights for 6-36 months NRVs; committee combined NRV-R for 6-12 and 12-36 months. • Sweetness Assessment: India, supported by USA, Canada, opposed EU's sensory testing proposal for carbohydrate sweetness due to lack of validation; committee paused the topic. • About CCNFSU: A unit of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) that sets global standards for special dietary foods, including infant and medical foods.
SCO Meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAM S. Jaishankar visit Pakistan for the SCO Heads of Government meeting from October 15-16, 2024, marking his first visit to Pakistan in 9 years. • This visit follows Sushma Swaraj's 2015 trip for the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, which led to a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue between India and Pakistan.

Test Prime

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**Previous Year Awards & Recognition Questions from All Bank Exams Questions**

Q1. In 2024, NATO is celebrating how many years of collective defense as part of its anniversary?

- (a) 50 years
- (b) 60 years
- (c) 70 years
- (d) 75 years
- (e) 80 years

Ans.(d)

Sol. NATO is celebrating 75 years of collective defense in 2024.

Since its creation, the Alliance has expanded from 12 founding members to 32 countries, all working together to ensure the safety and security of their populations through mutual cooperation and defense strategies.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) static facts:

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 31 member states – 29 European and two North American.

Formation: 1949

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Q2. Which of the following countries was not elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the two-year term starting January 1, 2025?

- (a) Denmark
- (b) Greece
- (c) Panama
- (d) Somalia
- (e) Uruguay

Ans.(e)

Sol. The five newly elected non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026, are Denmark, Greece, Panama, Pakistan, and Somalia. Uruguay was not among the countries elected in this term.

The non-permanent members serve two-year terms and contribute to decisions regarding international peace and security.

Q3. Which country will host the G20 summit in 2025, as part of the annual rotating presidency among its members?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) United States
- (c) South Africa
- (d) India
- (e) Australia

Ans.(c)

Sol. South Africa will host the G20 summit in 2025.

The G20 presidency rotates annually among its members, with **Brazil** hosting in **2024** and the **United States** hosting in **2026**.

The G20 summits focus on international economic cooperation and addressing global challenges.

G20 (Group of 20):

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising **19 countries and the European Union**.

It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

Founded: 1999

Members: *Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, European Union*

Q4. In 2024, NATO reached a major milestone in its history. Which anniversary of its establishment and commitment to collective defence did NATO celebrate?

- (a) 25th
- (b) 50th
- (c) 65th
- (d) 75th
- (e) 100th

Ans.(d)

Sol. In 2024, NATO celebrated its 75th anniversary of collective defence.

NATO's Establishment:

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was formed in 1949 to promote peace and security through a collective defence alliance among its member nations.

Core Principle:

NATO operates on the principle of collective defence (Article 5), meaning an attack against one member is considered an attack against all.

Member Countries:

NATO originally began with 12 founding members: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Over time, the alliance expanded, and as of 2024, NATO consists of 32 member countries.

Historical Importance:

Over 75 years, NATO has evolved into a key global security organization, adapting to changing global threats and maintaining peace in the Euro-Atlantic region.

75 Years of Defence:

The 75th anniversary in 2024 marks NATO's long-standing commitment to protecting member nations and promoting international stability.

