Cricket's Map to 2035: Two Big ICC Events for India in the New Roadmap



Original symbolic illustration: pcsmantra.com

Why in News

After its Board meetings in Bali, Indonesia (November 2026), the International Cricket Council (ICC) on 15 November 2026 announced the schedule, competition formats and qualification frameworks for marquee men's events. Windows from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2028 up to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2035 were confirmed. ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta said the events calendar is a critical part of cricket's global architecture and gives members long-term visibility for planning.

Introduction: the ICC and its events

ICC (International Cricket Council): The world governing body of cricket, which organises the World Cup, T20 World Cup, Champions Trophy and World Test Championship. It has both Full and Associate Members.

Marquee events: The ICC's top-tier tournaments, whose hosting is allotted years in advance so that member countries can plan preparation and investment. Cricket is returning to the Olympic programme at LA28 (Los Angeles Olympics 2028), so the Olympic qualifiers are part of this roadmap too.

Main Body: the schedule to 2035

Windows approved by the ICC Board:

- **2028 - Men's T20 World Cup:** Australia and New Zealand (12 October - 12 November).
- **2029 - World Test Championship Final:** England (8-12 June).
- **2029 - Men's Champions Trophy:** India (9-28 October).
- **2030 - Men's T20 World Cup:** England, Ireland and Scotland (4 July - 4 August).
- **2031 - World Test Championship Final:** England (12-16 June).
- **2031 - Men's Cricket World Cup (ODI):** India and Bangladesh (9 October - 23 November).
- **2032-2035:** T20 World Cup 2032 (14 October - 14 November), WTC Final 2033 (9-13 June), Champions Trophy 2033 (2-23 October), T20 World Cup 2034 (6 July - 6 August), WTC Final 2035 (7-11 June) and Cricket World Cup 2035 (2 October - 18 November) - hosts for these later editions were not part of this announcement.

Qualification pathways and LA28

- **Cricket World Cup 2027 Qualifier:** February-March 2027; 10 teams, 23 matches - the top four will reach World Cup 2027.
- **T20 World Cup 2028 Global Qualifier:** 16 teams and 31 matches in the first quarter of 2028; eight teams qualify directly for the main tournament with regional representation ensured.
- **Women's T20 World Cup 2028 Qualifier:** Regional allocations confirmed - two spots each from Africa, Asia and East Asia-Pacific, and one each from the Americas and Europe; the top two teams of the Global Qualifier will advance.
- **LA28 Olympic Qualifiers:** The men's qualifier will be held 5-13 February 2028 in Bangladesh and the women's qualifier 26 February - 5 March 2028 in the USA; each will have eight teams and the final winner will take the last Olympic berth.

Exam relevance

For Prelims: Host-year-tournament matching (Champions Trophy 2029 - India; World Cup 2031 - India + Bangladesh; T20 World Cup 2028 - Australia + New Zealand; T20 World Cup 2030 - England + Ireland + Scotland), LA28 qualifier venues and the ICC CEO (Sanjog Gupta) are direct question areas.

For Mains: Hosting mega events and sports tourism, infrastructure and soft power - examples for GS-II/essays.

Way Forward

For India, hosting 2029 (Champions Trophy) and 2031 (World Cup, with Bangladesh) will be the next test of mega-event management. The qualification framework widens opportunities for Associate nations, and LA28 will accelerate cricket's global expansion.

Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. With reference to the ICC's new global events roadmap, consider the following statements:
Statement 1: India will host the Champions Trophy 2029
Statement 2: The ODI World Cup 2031 will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka
Statement 3: The T20 World Cup 2028 will be held in Australia and New Zealand

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer and Explanation

Correct answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: the Champions Trophy 2029 (9-28 October) will be in India. Statement 2 is incorrect: the World Cup 2031 will be hosted by India and Bangladesh, not Sri Lanka. Statement 3 is correct: the T20 World Cup 2028 will be in Australia and New Zealand.

Q2. Where will the men's and women's final qualifiers for LA28 Olympic cricket be held respectively?

(a) India and England

(b) Bangladesh and the USA

(c) Australia and Bangladesh

(d) The USA and India

Answer and Explanation

Correct answer: (b) Bangladesh and the USA

Explanation: The men's qualifier will be held from 5-13 February 2028 in Bangladesh and the women's qualifier from 26 February - 5 March 2028 in the USA; each will feature eight teams.

Mains Practice Question

In what ways is hosting major international sporting events both an opportunity and a challenge for India? Discuss with reference to the hosting of the Champions Trophy 2029 and the World Cup 2031. (GS-II; 150 words)

Answer Outline:

Introduction: Introduce the two hosting rights (2029, 2031) awarded to India in the ICC roadmap.

Main Body: Opportunities - sports tourism, infrastructure, employment and soft power; challenges - security, cost, stadium utilisation and multi-city coordination; the regional-cooperation aspect of co-hosting (Bangladesh).

Conclusion: Conclude that successful hosting will strengthen sports governance credibility, provided planning is tied to long-term use.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Short answer: On 15 November 2026, the ICC announced windows and qualification pathways for marquee men's events up to 2035 - the Champions Trophy 2029 in India, the World Cup 2031 in India-Bangladesh and the T20 World Cup 2028 in Australia-New Zealand.

Q: Where and when is the Champions Trophy 2029?

In India, from 9 to 28 October 2029.

Q: How will cricket reach the LA28 Olympics?

The winners of the men's qualifier (Bangladesh, February 2028) and the women's qualifier (USA, February-March 2028) will take the final Olympic berths.

Q: Who is the current CEO of the ICC?

Sanjog Gupta.

Sources

- ICC - ICC unveils global events roadmap and qualification pathways (15 November 2026): https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/icc-unveils-global-events-roadmap-and-qualification-pathways

Related articles (internal links)

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